

Israelis use civilians as protection

SIDON (R) — Israeli troops Monday forced civilians to mount armoured vehicles driving through an area where the occupation army has come under heavy resistance attacks near the southern city of Tyre, Lebanese security sources said. They said about 50 civilians were made to climb on tanks and armoured personnel carriers that assembled in a 15-vehicle convoy at the Qasbiyeh Bridge over the Litani River. The convoy then drove off with the civilians on top. Several Israeli soldiers have been killed and wounded at a fortified position guarding the bridge, which is on Israel's "front lines" in South Lebanon and frequently comes under resistance attack. The sources said the civilians were allowed to dismount after the convoy passed Tyre, about eight kilometres south. "The move was designed as a protection for the Israelis from resistance operations," the sources said.

Jordan Times

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جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Aqaba-Nuweibe link opens April 25

CAIRO (Petra) — Minister of Transport Farhi Obeid and Egyptian Minister of Transport and Communications Suleiman Mutwalli announced here Monday that a land-sea link between Aqaba and the Egyptian port of Nuweibe will be inaugurated on April 25. The announcement came after discussions held here Monday attended by officials representing the various transport, customs, interior, marine transport, energy and insurance in the two countries. During the session Mr. Mutwalli said in a speech that "brotherly and intimate spirit" contributed significantly to reaching the agreement and decision to open the transport lines on April 25. Mr. Obeid stressed the importance of supporting and strengthening relations between the two countries in the political, social and economic fields to serve citizens throughout the Arab World.

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Qaboos receives King's message

MUSCAT (Petra) — A message from His Majesty King Hussein to Sultan Qaboos of Oman was delivered Monday by Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem. The message deals with current Arab situation and relations between the two countries. Mr. Qasem, who arrived here earlier Monday, was met on arrival by the Omani Minister of Court Hamad Ibn Himoud.

Bridge closure announced

AMMAN (Petra) — The Prince Mohammad Bridge across River Jordan will be closed Tuesday to travellers and trucks from and to the West Bank for repair and maintenance works, a Public Security Department (PSD) spokesman said Monday. The spokesman asked people not to proceed to the bridge on Tuesday.

Urquhart visits U.N. troops, meet Kyprianou, Denktash

NICOSIA (R) — Deputy U.N. Secretary-General Brian Urquhart had separate meetings Monday with President Spyros Kyprianou and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denkash, a U.N. military spokesman said. Mr. Urquhart, who arrived in Cyprus at the weekend, Sunday visited by helicopter positions manned by the 2,600-strong U.N. Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNICYP) along the 165-kilometre "green line" dividing the island. The spokesman said visiting the eight-nation UNICYP was the main purpose of Mr. Urquhart's visit.

Libyan charged with Bonn murder

BONN (R) — A young Libyan accused of shooting dead an anti-government Libyan exile and wounding two passers-by in a crowded Bonn square on Saturday has been formally charged with murder, police said Monday. A spokesman said Fatahi Al Tarbouni, 29, had been charged with killing Gehrill Denali, who died of headwounds after he was shot in the city's central Muenster Square. During questioning, Tarbouni had admitted carrying out the attack on Denali and said it was for political reasons.

Would be assassin executed in Liberia

MONROVIA (R) — The deputy commander of Liberia's presidential guard has been publicly executed on a bench near Monrovia on charges of trying to kill the country's ruler, Samuel Doe, official sources said Monday. Mr. Doe told journalists earlier he had ordered the execution of Lieutenant-Colonel Moses Flanzamaton who he said had machine-gunned his car at the gates of the presidential palace last Monday. But he said he had freed four politicians held for alleged involvement in the assassination attempt because Col. Flanzamaton's version of the plot lacked conviction. Col. Flanzamaton said on radio and television that he had been offered \$1 million dollars by senior politicians to murder Mr. Doe.

King pledges support for Sudan, its people

Khartoum protesters demand civilian rule

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Monday expressed Jordan's total support for Sudan and its people and their free independent will and offered any support requested from the Kingdom in "realising the national aspirations of the people of Sudan for stability, prosperity and national unity on their national soil."

The King's support for the "step for national salvation" in Sudan came in the wake of a bloodless coup in the African Arab country where Defence Minister Abdul Rahman Mohammad Hassan Swareddahab took power Saturday after toppling President Jaafar Numeiri.

Reports from Khartoum said Monday the Sudanese capital remained largely crippled by strikes and thousands of people called on the new military leadership to hand over power to a civilian government.

The King's support for Sudan and its people came in a telephone call he made to Lieutenant-General Swareddahab in his capacity as the commander-in-chief of the Sudanese armed forces, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said. It added that Lt.-Gen. Swareddahab thanked the King for his "brotherly initiative and promise to convey Jordan's support and feelings to the people of Sudan and their national leadership."

Eyewitnesses quoted by Reuters in a dispatch from Khartoum said demonstrators gathered outside the headquarters of the general armed forces command and called on Lt.-Gen. Swareddahab to hand over power to a civilian government.

The demonstrators, estimated at 5,000 to 7,000 strong, carried banners condemning Mr. Numeiri.

TASS attacks American rejection of missile freeze

MOSCOW (R) — The official Soviet news agency TASS said Monday that Washington's declared reason for rejecting Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's unilateral missile moratorium was a "gross lie."

TASS military writer Vladimir Chernyshev said the United States had deliberately ignored its own forward-based nuclear systems and those of Britain and France when it swiftly dismissed Mr. Gorbachev's freeze, announced Sunday night.

"It is an unobjective view, to put it mildly, or a gross lie to put it straightly," he said.

Mr. Gorbachev, 54, said in an interview with the Communist Party daily Pravda that Moscow was halting medium-range missile deployments in Europe from Sunday until November.

The Reagan administration said the moratorium was similar to earlier Soviet offers in that it froze weapons levels at a big disadvantage to the United States (See page 8).

Chernyshev said American leaders compared Soviet missiles only with ground-based missiles, ignoring other U.S. systems and French and British nuclear weapons, which Washington considers independent deterrents.

The TASS writer said Washington had "hastily dismissed the USSR's new peace initiatives" and ignored Moscow's clear call to freeze arms deployments while

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has promised civilian rule after six months, acceded to the first demand on Sunday by ordering the army to take over the security agency's functions and confiscate its weapons and communications equipment.

While there was no immediate union confirmation of the Omdurman Radio report, some union members interviewed by the AP indicated they were willing to go back to work.

Informed Sudanese sources quoted by Reuters said the new leadership was not yet sure what steps to take to bring life in the capital back to normal.

The sources also said political groups which participated in anti-Numeiri demonstrations last Wednesday and Thursday were already hickering among themselves over a joint approach to the new junta.

These groups include the banned Communist Party and the underground fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood organisation. The new military leader has ordered the arrest of all senior officials of Mr. Numeiri's government. He has also released all political prisoners.

Most of those released belong to the Muslim Brotherhood, the Communist Party and the Arab Baathist Party — the three groups largely blamed by Mr. Numeiri for civil unrest in Sudan. The ousted president had also accused the groups for plotting sabotage and subversion.

Hundreds of Sudanese, deprived of alcoholic drinks for under Islamic law implemented by Mr. Numeiri 18 months ago, also demonstrated Monday for an end to the ban.

"We want beer, we want beer," crowds outside hotels and other public buildings shouted.

Mr. Numeiri poured Sudan's liquor stocks into the Nile when he imposed *Sharia* (Islamic law) in September 1983.

Iraq 'ready to work with U.N. for peace'

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — President Saddam Hussein said Monday Iraq was ready to cooperate fully in United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf war.

In a meeting with the visiting U.N. chief, he said Baghdad had responded to previous U.N. peace overtures and accused Iran of responsibility for the continuing human and material losses because of its rejection of peace.

"Iraq is ready to sincerely and seriously cooperate with the U.N. to discuss practical solutions that lead to an end to the fighting and solve the conflict in a way that guarantees both countries' dignity and sovereignty," Baghdad Television quoted President Hussein as saying.

The television said Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who arrived here earlier Monday, had stressed the need for talks on all aspects of the 4 1/2-year-old conflict and a quick solution bringing a list and permanent peace.

He had talks earlier with Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, who also attended the meeting with the president.

U.N. officials indicated that their chief was firming up a set of proposals for peace between the two belligerents, but refused to reveal any details.

Arab diplomatic sources in Bahrain and Qatar told the Associated Press the secretary-general was crystallising an eight-point plan in this connection.

These, they said, included an immediate end to the so-called "war of the cities," the air attacks on Gulf commercial shipping, ensuring safety of civil aviation in the region, and a ceasefire along the 1,180-kilometre war front.

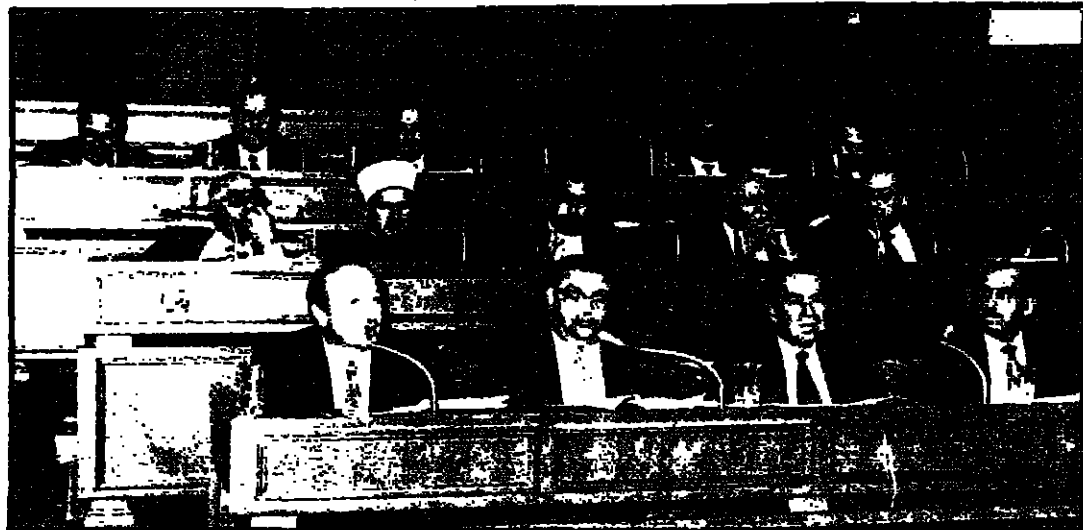
Other points in the purported plan envisaged an attempt to assess war damage on both sides and define steps to get the two warring

Jordanian doctors perform two unique operations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two successful percutaneous, trans-luminal coronary angioplasty heart surgeries were carried out Sunday and Monday at the Queen Alia Heart Institute (QAH) in Al Hussein Medical Centre in Amman marking the first recorded cardiovascular operations of this kind in the Middle East.

The Jordanian doctors who performed the operation were Dr. Samir Jussous, senior cardiac consultant and medical director of QAH, and Dr. Fares Dughmi, cardiac specialist at the institute. One of the two patients will leave the institute Tuesday, and the other will leave the hospital Thursday.

Dr. Jussous described that the health condition of the two patients as "very good," and the patients themselves in an interview with Jordan Television said that they feel extremely relieved after the operations. (See story on page 3).



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai addresses the Upper House of Parliament Monday (Petra photo)

King authorises House to debate new cabinet

Rifai pledges close cooperation, coordination with parliament

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government will work towards increasing cooperation and coordination with the legislative body in the Kingdom for better serving the various sectors in the society, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai said Monday. In the first public speech he delivered since taking office Thursday, Mr. Rifai told the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) that "we are in a bad need to work together hand in hand in carrying out our joint legislative and executive responsibilities in the service of the country and the citizen."

Addressing the Senate, he said the government is "a part of the society and that we will lay the grounds for cooperation and coordination with your council in a brotherly and honest spirit."

Mr. Rifai said the government will be open for suggestions by parliamentarians, "who are like the government, of and for the people."

Responding to a welcoming

speech Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi delivered at the beginning of the session, Mr. Rifai expressed "feelings of gratitude and pride" for the confidence of His Majesty King Hussein in him and the members of the new cabinet.

Mr. Rifai also thanked former Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat for his efforts in serving the King and the country through difficult circumstances. Mr. Obeidat has been appointed a member of the Senate.

The Senate then endorsed a number of provisional laws approved and passed by the Lower House of Parliament.

A Royal Decree issued Monday authorised the Lower House of Parliament to include in its agenda for the next session on Thursday a debate of the new government's ministerial programme for a vote of confidence by the House, which is currently convened in an extraordinary session.

Under the Royal Decree, the House will also discuss provisional laws for licensing the Jordan Electric Power Company, the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company for

the year 1985 and a provisional law on natural resources.

The House will also debate loan agreements signed between the Kingdom and the Arab Economic and Social Development Fund for the financing of development projects.

Meanwhile, four members of the new cabinet were sworn in Monday before the King and assumed their ministerial responsibilities. The other members of the cabinet were sworn in Thursday but the four ministers sworn in Monday were out of Jordan at the time, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

They were Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali; Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Al Humoud; Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Dr. Raja' Al Muasher; and Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Dr. Taher Nanan. Attending the swearing in ceremony were Prime Minister Al Rifai and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh.

Jordan calls for urgent Arab action in Lebanon

TUNIS (Petra) — The Arab League Council Monday convened an extra-ordinary session on Jordan's request to discuss the deteriorating situation in Lebanon resulting from pro-Israeli gunmen's continued aggression on Palestinian refugee camps in South Lebanon.

Jordan's ambassador to Tunis and permanent representative to the Arab League, Nabil Nimr, called on the Arab Nation to "shoulder its historical responsibilities towards the situation in Lebanon."

He said that Monday's Arab League meeting was "an expression of solidarity with Palestinians and Lebanese in South Lebanon and our determination to help and aid them."

He said that Israel was embarking on a scheme that will substitute the inhabitants of southern Lebanon and create an isolation zone that will be under its total domination.

Mr. Nimr said that Israel's plans could only materialise because of the absence of Arab solidarity.

He praised the heroes of resistance in Lebanon.

Addressing the opening session, Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi praised the resistance of the Lebanese people and exp-

lained Israel's aims in escalating its attacks on Palestinian refugee camps.

Mr. Klibi called for a unified Arab stand to face Israel's intentions in South Lebanon.

Addressing the session also were representatives of the United Arab Emirates, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Syria and Lebanon.

The Jordanian delegation submitted a proposed resolution which was discussed at Monday's session.

The council formulated a committee consisting of Jordan, the PLO, Lebanon and Syria to study the proposal and put it in a final draft to be discussed during the session.

Mr. Klibi told the opening session: "Israel is trying now to set off an explosion on a national scale in Lebanon... to put pressure on inhabitants of South Lebanon to leave the region in droves and to settle historical scores with the Palestinian people," he said.

He told the session, attended by permanent representatives to the Arab League, that Israel sought to destroy Palestinian camps.

Mr. Klibi accused Israel of carrying out massacres and destroying entire villages since its invasion of Lebanon.

national reconciliation.

Mr. Gemayel's policies are being challenged by rebels who last month seized control of his Falangist Party's "Lebanese Forces" militia.

Syria is pressing Mr. Gemayel to overcome the revolt quickly and resume a year-long effort at reconciliation.

About 100 Christian leaders, including former presidents and politicians and militia chiefs, are expected to attend Tuesday's Bkirk conference.

Mr. Gemayel wants a united Christian stand on a number of pressing problems, hoping to outflank the rebels in the mostly Christian "Lebanese Forces".

Shelling kills 3 Palestinian teenagers in 'Ain Al Hilweh

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Falangist militiamen kept up their shelling of the southern port of Sidon and Palestinian refugee camps surrounding the city and reports reaching the Lebanese capital said three people were killed and 10 others were wounded, raising the death toll to 51 since the violence broke out 11 days ago.

Host families spent the night in shelters as overnight battles and shelling duels rocked Sidon until after dawn.

Palestinian fighters and their Lebanese supporters are fighting the mostly Christian Falangist "Lebanese Forces" militiamen, who have also turned their guns against the poorly-equipped Lebanese army soldiers. The "Lebanese Forces" militiamen in South Lebanon have pledged loyalty to the militia commander, Dr. Samir Geagea, who broke away from the party leadership headed by President Amin Gemayel.

The militiamen are supported by the Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army" (SLA).

Monday's exchanges tapered off at daybreak but picked up again at mid-morning. Hospitals and local police said three Palestinian refugees, two brothers at age 15 and 16 and their 11-year-old female cousin, were killed at Sidon's 'Ain Al Hilweh camp.

In the late morning, only two or three explosions could be heard along with occasional sniper fire. Traffic was scarce, and the few cars seen on the streets were driving with great speed. The fighting pace picked up again at mid-morning with the sound of repeated explosions coming from suburban areas east of the city.

In addition to the three dead, hospitals and local police said at least 10 people, including two Palestinian fighters and one Lebanese army soldier, were wounded in the latest clashes that forced shops and businesses to remain closed in several neighbourhoods of the provincial capital of South Lebanon.

The overnight exchanges followed a mortar barrage that hit the city's main commercial thoroughfare, damaging several shops and sending residents scurrying for cover, police said.

Politicians and religious leaders in the Sidon region held a three-hour conference. They called for a prompt ceasefire, withdrawal of irregulars, deployment of army units in and around the city, and the return of an estimated 40,000 people who fled their homes during the fighting.

A statement said the conferees at the Maronite Catholic bishopric in Sidon had asked Defence Minister Adel Osserian, who attended the meeting, to carry their call to the central government in Beirut.

Lebanese leaders and Syria have held Dr. Geagea responsible for the fighting in Sidon, which is 40 kilometres south of Beirut. They charged he was instigated by Israel to try to partition Lebanon into sectarian mini-states.

Army reinforcements of troops and armoured personnel carriers were massed early last week at Beirut airport to go south to disengage the Sidon combatants. But the reinforcements remained bogged down at the airport Monday because militia commands failed to reach agreement on where the army will be deployed in and around Sidon.

Sidon parliamentary deputy Nazih Birzi said after Monday's meeting in Sidon all had blamed the fighting on "an Israeli conspiracy carried out by Lebanese tools," which he said were the "Lebanese Forces" and the SLA.

Defence Minister Osserian, who was at the meeting, promised that the government would send "a well-equipped army to extend state authority" in the Sidon region.

Lightly-equipped army units based in the city have made little impression on the Falangist militiamen, who have taken over the eastern suburbs and nearby villages.

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سنة من العمل

New Sudanese leader gains key allies' support

CAIRO (R) — Sudan's new military rulers have gained cautious support from key allies, including the United States, Britain, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, but the North African country remained cut off from the rest of the world Monday for the fourth day.

The four allies said they were willing to cooperate with the new rulers who toppled the government of former President Jaafar Numeiri in a bloodless coup this weekend, ending 10 days of turmoil.

Telex and telephone lines have been down since April 3 and the airport remained closed.

A U.S. State Department official in Washington said: "There is a desire on both sides to try to work together."

A meeting with the U.S. charge d'affaires in Khartoum was among the first held by new Sudanese leader Gen. Abdul Rahman Swaraddhah, a report by the Egyptian Middle East News Agency (MENA) from Khartoum said.

Gen. Swaraddhah also met the ambassadors of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and China.

In London, Foreign Office Minister Richard Luce said Gen. Swaraddhah's initial statements were encouraging and Britain hoped to be able to work with the new government.

MENA quoted a statement by the new military command as saying that leaders of the former government had been arrested, including vice-presidents, ministers and officials of the ruling political party. It gave no names.

The agency also said the army had responded favourably to a popular demand to dissolve the country's state security intelligence organisation and create a new "National Security Organisation" under the army.

Sudan's Omudman Radio, monitored here, said politicians

detained by the ousted government had been released.

Reports from Western diplomats reaching Cairo said life in Khartoum appeared slowly to be returning to normal. Some shops reopened and the government appealed to workers and employees to resume work, they said.

Egypt meanwhile said it would support any government the Sudanese people wanted.

A statement issued Sunday by Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Maguid said Egypt would not intervene in Sudan's internal affairs and also warned it would not accept any "outside aggression" against Sudan.

President Hosni Mubarak, who sheltered Mr. Numeiri, Sunday said he was in contact with the new leaders and that he had exchanged messages with Gen. Swaraddhah.

In Riyadh King Fahd of Saudi Arabia on Sunday was the first Arab leader to send congratulations to the commander of the Sudanese Armed Forces on becoming the leader of the African country after a bloodless coup.

The official Saudi Press Agency said the monarch, in his message to Gen. Swaraddhah, also underscored the kingdom's "care to perpetuate and consolidate the ties of brotherhood" with Sudan.

Earlier in the day, the governments of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates issued separate statements of support for the new military regime in Khartoum.

Saudi Arabia is a member in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation

Council (GCC), a regional military and economic alliance that also comprises Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and the UAE.

It was understood here that all GCC countries would follow Saudi example and declare their support for the new Khartoum leadership.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami Monday welcomed Saturday's coup d'etat in Sudan.

"We consider the coup an embodiment of the will of the citizens in that brotherly country... we cannot but recognise all that emanates from the people and all that they want and seek," Mr. Karami told a delegation of lawyers in his home town, the northern port of Tripoli.

The famine there (in Sudan) is threatening part of its people... we pray to God to protect Sudan," he said.

In Damascus, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara said Monday the overthrow of Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri was a lesson to Arab rulers "who ignored their peoples' hopes" as a government newspaper urged reforms within Sudan.

The government newspaper Fihrin Monday called on Sudan's new rulers to introduce comprehensive reforms and said the coup had created a "new situation with unpredictable consequences and opened the door wide for changes and reforms."

Libyan leader Muammar al-Jadhafi said Sunday that ousted Sudanese leader Jaafar Numeiri had paid the price of relying on Egyptian support.

Libya quickly welcomed the takeover in Khartoum Saturday by the army.

But the new Sudanese leader has stressed his commitment to the existing alliance with the U.S.-backed government in Cairo.



CROWN PRINCE CONGRATULATES RIFA'I: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan bin Talal, Minister Zaid Rifai during a meeting at the Prime Ministry (Petra photo)

Egypt proposes resumption of talks on Taba

CAIRO (AP) — Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid has said that Egypt has invited Israel and the United States for a meeting at the Suez Canal city of Ismailia later this month to resume talks on the border dispute area of Taba.

Egypt and Israel regard the United States as a partner in Middle East peace efforts.

Speaking before a joint meeting of the parliament's Foreign Relations and National Security Committees, Mr. Abdul Meguid said Egypt suggested a date within the next two weeks but did not elaborate on Israel's response.

Israeli embassy spokesman Isaac Bar Moshe confirmed that Israel had received the Egyptian invitation but said no agreement has been reached yet on a date for the talks.

"Consultations are still going on to fix a date. The two sides are expected to agree on a date within the coming few days," Mr. Bar Moshe said.

Mr. Abdul Meguid said the proposed talks would be a continuation of last January's negotiations at Beer-Sheva in southern Israel.

Egypt wants to settle the dispute over the one-square-kilometre area through international arbitration but Israel prefers negotiation or mediation.

Quoted by the Middle East News Agency (MENA), Mr. Abdul Meguid said the aim of the talks was to restore Egypt's "full sovereignty" over the strip of land overlooking the Aqaba Gulf. Israel refused to hand over the area to Egypt in 1982 when it completed withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula under the U.S.-mediated 1979 peace treaty, claiming Taba was an Israeli territory.

Israel plans to pull out of Nabatiyeh area soon

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli troops will soon withdraw from a volatile Shiite Muslim area of South Lebanon in advance of a total pullout expected in May, state radio said Monday.

The report, also carried in Israeli newspapers without attribution, said the army would leave the town of Nabatiyeh and the nearby villages of Jibsheet and Douair the scene of frequent guerrilla attacks.

The pullback, apparently to the Litani River, about 15 kilometres from the Israeli border, will be carried out soon, the radio said. A military spokesman declined comment on the report.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said last week's closure of the Ansar Prison Camp, west of Nabatiyeh, would enable the army to speed up its withdrawal from Lebanon.

Israeli generals have said the

army will complete its transfer of equipment to Israel by June. But press reports here have spoken of a total withdrawal by the end of May.

The daily Haaretz suggested the partial withdrawal would establish a shorter, more easily defensible line along the Litani River, which ranges from 4 kilometres to 20 kilometres north of the Israeli border.

The paper said this would allow better supervision over the movement of Lebanese into the area under its control, and decrease the risk of attacks on its troops in South Lebanon during the time remaining until its final pullout.

Haaretz and the radio both said that army chief of staff Lt.-Gen. Moshe Levy was expected to report to the cabinet by the end of April that the army was ready to carry out the final stage of the withdrawal.

Lebanese guerrilla arms cache found in Paris

PARIS (R) — Intelligence officers have unearthed a Lebanese arms cache in Paris which includes a pistol apparently used to assassinate two foreign diplomats three years ago, the Interior Ministry said Monday.

A ministry spokesman said officers last Tuesday raided a flat rented by a Lebanese guerrilla suspect near the Champs Elysees, and found 20 kilograms of explosives, two rocket-launchers and an assortment of automatic weapons.

Among the weapons was a Czechoslovak-made 7.65 mm automatic pistol probably used in the 1982 killings of U.S. Military Attaché Charles Ray and Israeli diplomat Yacov Barsimantov, the spokesman said.

Officers of the Home Security Branch, DST, raided the apartment after interrogating Abdullah Georges Ibrahim, held in

Paris on charges of using a false passport. He was using the name Abdul Jader Saadi when he was arrested last October.

The Beirut-based Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Factions last month demanded Ibrahim's release in exchange for the life of a French diplomat they were holding hostage. The diplomat was later freed.

The shadowy "factions" group first surfaced in Paris in 1981 when it claimed responsibility for an abortive attempt to kill U.S. Charge d'Affaires Christian Chapman. They claimed the killings of both Ray and Barsimantov.

The ministry spokesman said police questioning Ibrahim stumbled on the arms cache after discovering he was paying rent for a Paris apartment through a Swiss bank account.

Israelis plan to close Jerusalem Hospice

AMMAN (Agencies) — Reports reaching here from the occupied West Bank indicate that the Israeli authorities intend to close down the Hospice Hospital in Jerusalem, which offers medical services to thousands of Arab inhabitants in the Jerusalem area.

The reports said that a decision for closing down the hospital will be taken in the coming few days despite denials by the Israeli Health Minister Mordachai Gur.

So far the Israeli authorities have been placing obstacles in the way of improving the hospital's services and reducing its standard so as to create justification for the closure, the reports said.

They said that despite the fact that several wealthy Arabs have offered to finance the hospital's operations, the Israelis are going ahead with the procedure.

In its present status the hospital cannot cope with the increasing demand by Arab inhabitants for proper medical service and medical equipment, and its closure would deal a heavy blow to medical services to the Arabs in the occupied West Bank most of whom are poor and cannot afford costly medical treatment in Israeli hospitals.

In the face of these procedures, Arab committees in charge of the medical care in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip issued a statement in which they condemned Israel's measures and expressed total solidarity with the hospital's management and the staff in confronting Israeli repressive measures that are designed to end-

anger the lives of the Arab population.

Meanwhile, Israeli military authorities in the occupied West Bank Sunday removed a week-long curfew imposed on two Palestinian towns where two Israeli men were recently murdered, military sources said.

The curfew on the twin towns of Ramallah and Al-Bireh 16 kilometres north of Jerusalem, was imposed on April 1 after a Jewish settler was shot dead the previous day. Under the curfew, residents were only allowed out for several hours a day to shop and run errands.

But although the curfew was lifted, the area's military governor ordered 23 stores to remain closed, said the sources, who declined to be identified. They said they did not know the reason.

Israel Television reported that the storeowners were being punished for failing to cooperate with the authorities after the killings. The stores will remain shut for two months, the report said.

The settler was shot at close range by an unknown gunman while waiting for a bus in Ramallah's vegetable market. An Israeli soldier was murdered in February at almost the same spot.

The television showed an Israeli army jeep driving down a Jerusalem Ramallah street to announce over a bullhorn that the curfew was over. As soon as the jeep passed, hundreds of people swarmed out of narrow alleys onto the main street and minutes later a snarled traffic jam had formed.

Klibi: EC declaration has not gone far enough

TUNIS (R) — The head of the Arab League has said that last month's European Community (EC) summit declaration has not gone far enough in statements on the Palestinians, South Lebanon and the Gulf war.

Mr. Chadli Klibi, secretary-general of the 21-member league, while noting the community leaders' declaration on the need for a just peace in the Middle East, said in a statement:

"We regret that it was not thought necessary to recall in this same declaration the principles on which such a solution must rest, the most important being the recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the need for Israel to withdraw from all occupied territories."

Mr. Klibi said the same applied to what the Brussels summit declaration had to say on South Lebanon, in that it failed to mention what he called Israel's systematic terrorism in the region.

On the Gulf war, he said that while the community's appeal for peace talks and concern at the escalation of the conflict were appreciated, it was to be regretted that European leaders did not pin responsibility on the country which had turned down all mediation efforts.

Mr. Klibi did not name Iran as the guilty party, but Arab League states firmly supported Iraq in a joint statement last month.

In his remarks on South Lebanon, Mr. Klibi said: "however important it is to state the need for total Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon, we are struck by the total silence observed on acts committed by Israel in the country, the massacres and extortion it carries out daily, the systematic terrorism to which it resorts, the flagrant breaches of Geneva Conventions."

He added that he believed that peace and security in the Middle East and Europe were closely linked and that he hoped that European leaders would bear the points mentioned in mind in future Community statements.

On the Gulf war, Mr. Klibi said: "We regret... the absence of any allusion to the responsibility of the party which obstinately rejects all mediation, every offer of good offices, and insists on putting forward unacceptable conditions."

Benjedid's U.S. visit shows political balance

ALGIERS (R) — President Chadli Benjedid visits Washington next week on a trip that illustrates the balance and pragmatism he has brought to Algeria's hitherto radical policies, according to Western diplomats.

Mr. Chadli's official visit, the first to the United States by an Algerian head of state since independence from France in 1962, demonstrates the greater moderation he has brought to foreign policy in particular, the diplomats said.

The Algerian leader, closely watched by more conservative minded party leaders, has steadily moved away from the doctrinaire policies followed for 14 years by his predecessor Houari Boumedienne.

A revolution which did not evolve was doomed to failure, he said last month, pledging improvements in the country's economic management and performance.

There have been frequent

high-level contacts between the two countries since Algeria helped negotiate the release of U.S. hostages from Iran in 1981. But the announcement that Mr. Chadli would see President Reagan on April 17 still came as something of a shock in Algeria.

For the past 20 years, Algeria has been one of the Third World's most vocal critics of "imperialism" and its army is still largely equipped by the Soviet Union.

Algeria rejects U.S. policy in Central America and Mr. Chadli will visit Cuba next month. But from Washington's point of view Algeria is still a "responsible country" in North Africa which itself is seen as an island of relative stability in an Arab World in turmoil, the diplomats said.

U.S. policy in North Africa has traditionally centred on pro-Western Morocco and Tunisia, but friendly ties with Algeria have become increasingly attractive with the growth of Algerian influ-

ence in the Non-Aligned and Arab Worlds, they added.

Algeria hopes that a rapprochement with Washington could produce what Algeria would see as a more balanced U.S. policy in North Africa.

"Considering our stated policy of strict non-alignment, it is absolutely normal that the president should go to Washington as well as Moscow," said an Algeria official who declined to be identified.

He conceded that although relations with Moscow were still polite, they were not as warm as under Mr. Boumedienne.

Algeria hopes to convince Washington that in the Western Sahara, where it supports Polisario guerrillas fighting Morocco for independence, it is Morocco which is holding up a solution.

Morocco gets U.S. military aid and in return the United States has military staging facilities in the country.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL
17:00 Koran
17:30 Cartoons
18:00 Children programme
18:30 Silver Spoons
19:00 Local Programme
19:30 Programme Review
19:55 News Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:30 Programmes
21:40 Variety Programme
23:00 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

17:30 German Programme for Children
18:00 Billet Doux
19:00 News in French
19:30 French Programme
19:55 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Tripper's Day
21:10 Consolated Enemies
22:00 News in English
22:15 Feature Film: Twin Detective

RADIO JORDAN

555 KHz. A.M. & 99 MHz. FM
& party on 95.0 KHz. SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 News Desk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show Cont.
10:00 Pop Session Cont.
11:00 News Summary
12:00 Pop Session Cont.
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session Cont.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:15 Country Music
15:00 News Summary
15:05 Instrumentals
16:00 Old Favourites
16:15 News Summary
17:00 Science Report
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Top Twenty
19:00 Newsdesk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Cont.
21:55 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show Cont.
23:00 News Summary
23:05 Evening Show Cont.
23:57 News Headlines
14:00 Close down

BBC WORLD SERVICE

07:00 Newsdesk 07:30 The Classical
Guitar 07:55 Reflections 08:00 World
News 08:09 24 Hours: News Summary
08:30 News 08:45 Book Choice
08:45 The World Today 09:00 News-
desk 09:30 Rock Solid 10:00 World
News 10:09 24 Hours: News Summary
10:30 Behind the Universe 10:45 Net-
work U.K. 11:00 World News 11:09 Re-
lections 11:15 Sun of Old Age 11:30
Sacred Symphonies 12:00 World News
12:09 British Press Review 12:15 The
World Today 12:40 Look Ahead 12:45
What's New 13:00 News Summary fol-
lowed by Discovery 13:30 Passing Time
14:00 World News 14:09 News about
Britain 14:15 Letter from London 14:25
Scotland this Week 14:30 Sports Inter-
national 15:00 Radio News 15:15 A
Bach Celebration 15:45 Sports
Round-up 16:00 World News 16:09 24
Hours: News Summary 16:30 Network
U.K. 16:45 Recording of the Week 17:00
Outlook 17:45 Shakespeare and Music
18:00 Radio News 18:15 A Jolly
Good Show 19:00 World News 19:09
Commentary 19:15 Omnibus 19:45 The
World Today 20:00 World News 20:09
Meridian 20:40 Scotland This Week
20:45 Sports Round-up 21:00 Newsdesk
21:30 Nature Notebook 21:40 The Farm-
ing World 22:00 Outlook: News Sum-
mary 22:30 Stock Market Report
22:45 That's That 23:00 World News
23:09 24 Hours: News Summary 23:30
A Bach Celebration 24:00 News Sum-
mary: Letter from London 00:10 Book
Choice 00:15 Concert Hall 01:00 World
News: The World Today 01:25 Scotland
this Week 01:30 Financial News 01:40
Reflections 01:45 Sports Round-up
02:00 World News 02:09 Commentary
02:15 Romantic Piano 02:30 Meridian

VOICe OF AMERICA

WJ 1260 & SW 7200, 9505, 11740,
11925 and 15210 Hz

07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA
Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline
08:30 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10
Newsline 09:30 VOA Morning/News
Summary 10:00 News 10:10 Newsline
10:30 Focus 10:30 Special English News &
Features 20:00 News 20:10 Newsline
20:30 Magazine Show 21:00 News 21:10
Focus 21:30 Special English News &
Features 22:00 News 22:10 Newsline
22:30 America 22:30 Music USA 23:00 News
& Editorial 23:15 Music USA Jazz 24:00
News 00:10 World Report

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS
* Omani book and paintings exhibition at Yarmouk University.
* An exhibition of Spanish national costumes at the Royal Cultural Centre.
* Scientific exhibitions of computers, electronics and chemical and scientific experiments at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Science.

CULTURAL WEEK

* Omani cultural week at the Royal Cultural Centre.

EXPOSITION

* Exposition on French marines at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Aqaba.

FRENCH FILM WEEK

* French film week at the Holiday Inn in Aqaba.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre 644371
British Council 641520
Jordanian Cultural Centre 651478
French Cultural Centre 677009
Goethe Institute 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre 624049
Turkish Cultural Centre 639777
Hays Arts Centre 651195
Hussain Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 641793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Amman Museum Library 656111
University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Faldira Museum: Jewellery and ornaments over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 631760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Ufa'a (Citadel Hill),

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luwbeh. 637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein. 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali. 623541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman. 625383.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. 771751.
Armenian Orthodox Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. 816534.

PRAYER TIMES

06:49 (Sunrise) Fajr
06:13 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:58 Dhuhr
16:13 'Asr
19:02 Maghreb
20:26 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (029) 53250, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

10:30 Aqaba (RJ)
10:30 Dubai (RJ)
10:45 Kuwait (RJ)
10:45 Jeddah (RJ)
10:45 Cairo (RJ)
10:55 Dhahran (RJ)
11:00 Muscat, Doha (RJ)
11:00 Beirut (RJ)
11:20 Cairo (MS)
11:35 Riyadh (SV)
11:45 Singapore, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:50 Larnaca, Damascus (RJ)
13:15 Moscow (RU)
13:15 New York, Vienna (RJ)
19:00 Amsterdam, Istanbul (KLM)
19:30 Rome, Damascus (AZ)
19:45 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
21:15 Athens (OGA)
21:50 Frankfurt, Damascus (L)
02:10 Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

08:00 Beirut (RJ)
08:15 Aqaba (RJ)
12:15 Tripoli (RJ)
12:20 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:45 Paris, London (RJ)
13:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:15 Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
13:15 Istanbul, Bucharest (RJ)
13:20 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
13:30 Rome (RJ)
14:00 Bahrain (GF)
14:00 Cairo (RJ)
15:30 Moscow (SU)
16:45 Kuwait (KU)
18:15 Baghdad (IA)
20:30 Kuwait (RJ)
21:50 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:45 Cairo (RJ)
23:10 Baghdad (RJ)
23:00 Bangkok (RJ)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:
* Marco Polo
* Kota Singa
* Albin Koebis
* Normandia
* Barash
* Canopus
* Babylon
* Taron Santiago
* Vera Khroznyia
Amin Kavar and Sons Company, Tel: 622324 (six lines) at your service.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fine, and clouds will appear at different altitudes, with northerly moderate winds. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.

Low/high temperature in deg.C:
Amman 22/20
Aqaba 13/29
Deserts 24/4
Jordan Valley 12/27

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 18, Aqaba 27. Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent. Aqaba 26 per cent.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell/buy rates in Rs
Belgian franc 65/ 65.5
Dutch guilder 114.4/ 115.3
Egyptian guinea 301.3/ 305.3
French franc 41.3/ 42.2
Irish dollar 456/ 463.3
Italian lire (for 100) 20.4/ 20.7
Japanese yen (for 100) 159.3/ 160.6
Kuwaiti dinar 1343.3/ 1351.6
Lebanese lira 22.5/ 23.5
Omani rial 1176.6/ 1185
Saudi riyal 112.9/ 113.6
Swedish crown 44.5/ 44.9
Swiss franc 150.9/ 152.1
Syrian lira 28/ 28.8
UAE dirham 110.6/ 111.5
U

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mohammad condoles 'Emeish family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Monday deplored his office director Abdul Faraj to convey his condolences to Dr. 'Emeish Yusef' Emeish on the passing away of his mother.

Wijdan opens Spanish costume display

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, the president of the National Fine Art Gallery, opened at the Royal Cultural Centre Monday an exhibition of Spanish national costumes, organised by the Madrid-based Spanish-Arab Cultural Institute in cooperation with the Spanish embassy in Amman. On display at the six-day exhibition are 30 national fashions from various regions in Spain.

House speakers visit Obeidat

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and Lower House Speaker Akef Al Fayez Monday paid a visit to former prime minister and member of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Obeidat at his residence. They expressed their thanks and appreciation for the efforts which Mr. Obeidat and his government made in serving Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein.

Health ministers review cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh Monday reviewed with visiting Bahraini Health Minister Jawad Al Areeed health relations between the two countries and ways of developing them. They also discussed how Bahrain could benefit from Jordanian experience in the health field. Attending the meeting were the ministry's under secretary, Dr. Suleiman Al Subeithi, a number of ministry officials and the delegation accompanying Mr. Areeed.

Team leaves for Arab housing seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation left for Morocco Monday to take part in a seminar on random housing, scheduled to start Wednesday. Housing Corporation Director General Shafiq Zaidan, who led the five-member delegation, said that the seminar will discuss housing policies in the Arab World as well as the local experience of each country in the field of confronting unplanned housing and reorganising quarters in poor cities. The Jordanian delegation will submit three working papers to the three-day seminar organised by the Arab Housing Ministers Council in cooperation with the Moroccan National Housing Ministry.

Book display for women opens in Irbid

IRBID (J.T.) — A four-day book exhibition on literature related to women and children open at the General Federation of Jordanian Women office in Irbid Monday. The exhibition, organised by the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLDNA), includes a large selection of books dealing with problems facing both women and children as well as a selection of books on child psychology. The exhibition has been organised as part of the national book week activities.

Jerusalem Electricity Company appoints new director general

AMMAN (Petra) — Mr. Munther Abu Al Saud has been named director general of the Jerusalem Electricity Company as of Tuesday. The post was previously held by the company's president of the board of directors, Mr. Anwar Nuseibeh. The company's board of directors is composed of 15 members, eight of them representing West Bank municipalities and seven representing private sector.

The company was established in 1948 and supplies electricity to Jerusalem, Jericho, Ramallah, Bethlehem, refugee camps, 134 villages in addition to around 150 industrial, tourist and trade institutions. The company is a public shareholding enterprise with 25 per cent of its JD 750,000 capital owned by West Bank municipalities, while the remaining 75 per cent is owned by 1685 share holders.

Haya Arts Centre plans new educational activities for children

By Simonetta Carr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In spite of financial difficulties, the Haya Arts Centre is still actively working towards the completion of a children's "hands-on" or "touch" museum and a planetarium the centre's director, Mr. Nabil Sawalha told the Jordan Times.

The basic design and groundwork for both projects are complete, and Mr. Sawalha hopes they will be in operation within the next six months. He said that the addition of these two projects will make the Haya Arts Centre unique in the world, since it comprises so many varied and interactive activities in the same compound.

Mr. Sawalha started the centre in 1976 under the encouragement and inspiration of the late Queen Alia. He describes the centre as a cultural centre for the whole family, aiming to encourage artistic and cultural interests, particularly in young people.

At the same time, it helps in the development of the children's feelings of social cohesion and civic responsibility, he added.

Activities for children from the age of six to 12 include painting, handicrafts, gymnasium, Tae Kwon Do, music, cultural trips to industrial or archaeological sites, storytelling, film watching, dramas and a number of other activities connected with the library.

Mr. Sawalha said that the centre is also preparing a new puppet show to substitute for the present one, "The Princess and the Magic Onion", which has now continued for two years.

More games

Other present plans include the improvement of the games area with more games and the expansion of the area itself, and the improvement of the traffic school in cooperation with the road safety society and the Public Security Department. The traffic school aims to teach children basic notions of road safety and traffic signs.

The improvements will include more equipment and children's cars which will be more suitable for the purpose. The centre has also asked an officer for the Traffic Department to help run the classes.

A new project, which starts in April is the opening of a computer workshop, where children and students get personal attention as they learn to operate the four computers which were donated to the centre by Mr. Munir Attalah.

Soon to be opened will be also classes on ceramics for grownups. Classes for adults, particularly women, already include dancing, aerobics, flowermaking, sewing and painting.

Museum, planetarium

Mr. Sawalha said, however, that the centre is presently mainly concentrating its efforts towards the completion of the museum and planetarium. He said that these projects will especially benefit the school groups who visit the centre every morning.

"The museum", he said, "will give children more insight into their life and surroundings, such as history, heritage, environment and science. Everything in it is tailor made."

"The planetarium", he continued, "will be 10 meters in diameter and live to six meters in height, with a capacity for 130 people". Mr. Sawalha said that the main expense at the present will be the planetarium projecting machine which will cost approximately JD 30,000. Presently, the centre is using a small inflatable planetarium which has been borrowed from the Ministry of Education and which is run in

cooperation with the ministry itself. Mr. Sawalha said this small planetarium has already proved to be a success with children and their families who have visited it, although it is not yet opened publicly.

Mr. Sawalha, who told the Jordan Times that he received much inspiration in his work with children from his experience of raising his son singlehandedly from the age of six, said that many organisations have been contacted in order to raise funds for the two projects. But, he added, that it is no one will agree to help, the projects will continue anyhow with a bank loan, hoping that they will pay for themselves in the future. He said the total cost of the completion of these projects is presently JD 40,000, of which the centre only has JD 6,000.

Fees

"The projects were more difficult and costly than we expected", Mr. Sawalha admitted. Being a non-profit society, the centre always maintained the fees for all activities at a minimal price. However, it is one of the centre's goals to make every project pay for itself whenever possible in order to continue to expand self-sufficiency," he continued.

Besides the centre in Amman, eight similar centres were opened in the past in different parts of the country, four of which have been handed over to local organisations and the remaining four are still run by the Haya Arts Centre. These centres follow the same programmes as the Amman centre. "Special programmes are also held from time to time assisting charitable organisations and libraries to set up their own projects", Mr. Sawalha concluded.



QUEEN NOOR ATTENDS OMANI SHOW: Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday attends an Omani evening at the Cultural Palace of Al Hussein Youth City as part of the activities of an Omani cultural week in Amman (Petra photo)

Surgeons perform first PTCA heart operations in Mideast

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — For the first time in the cardiovascular medical history of the Middle East, two Percutaneous Trans-Luminal Coronary Angioplasty (PTCA) heart surgeries, using the Balloon Catheter method, were carried out by Jordanian doctors at the Queen Alia Heart Institute (QAH) at the King Hussein Medical Centre in Amman.

Dr. Yusef Goussous, senior cardiac consultant and medical director at QAH, and Dr. Fares Al Dughmi, cardiac specialist at the institute, carried out two successful PTCA operations on a 59-year old Syrian citizen on Sunday and on a 61-year old Jordanian Monday.

Dr. Goussous told the Jordan Times that the average cost of the operation is JD 500, which is ten per cent of the cost a patient would pay if such an operation were performed abroad. He added that there are 15 PTCA patients currently waiting for an operation of this sort.

Dr. Goussous said that the first patient suffered from Angina Pectoris. Catheterisation, a special procedure for a more accurate diagnosis, is given routinely before any operation and Coronary Angiography proved that the patient suffered from a blockage or obstruction in 95 per cent of the left anterior descending artery, whereas the other arteries were functioning normally. The PTCA heart operation was carried out using the Balloon Catheter to widen the narrowed artery which returned back to its normal function after the operation was successfully completed. Dr. Goussous added that the condition of the first patient is very good and that he will leave the hospital Wednesday.

The second operation which was carried out Monday was due to unstable Angina Pectoris. The artery was widened using the same and the patient will leave hospital Friday, he said.

Dr. Goussous explained the procedures of the PTCA surgery to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, saying that a catheter, a tiny tube made from special components, is inserted in the right femoral and is pointed towards the afflicted coronary artery inside which the Balloon Catheter passes. When the balloon reaches the narrowed artery, it exerts special pressure which breaks down the fat deposits which narrowed the artery, so that the artery is widened and straightened.

After straightening and widening the coronary artery, blood flow is increased and the heart muscle, which previously suffered from coronary insufficiency, is fed and the Angina Pectoris discomforts disappear. However, Dr. Goussous said that the PTCA operation is not the alternative for

the open heart surgeries, but that such an operation can delay the need for an open heart surgery from 5 to 10 years.

Dr. Goussous said that PTCA surgeries help to lessen the ailments caused by Angina Pectoris and that the operation is 90 per cent successful. Dr. Goussous pointed out that the major culprits affecting the incidence of coronary diseases include hypertension, high level of lipids (cholesterol) in the blood, diabetes, smoking and stress.

Dr. Goussous, in a recent interview with the Jordan Times, said that Jordan has one of the highest incidence rates of coronary heart diseases in the Middle East. While Dr. Zakaria Daoud, from the Department of Cardiology at the University of Jordan Hospital said: "Not only did we have an increase in the incidence of heart attacks, but that it is impressive how younger age groups are now affected."



Dr. Yusef Goussous (left) and Dr. Fares Al Dughmi (second right), cardiac specialists at the Queen Alia Heart Institute in Amman, Monday inspect the progress of a patient following pioneer surgery at the Institute (Petra photo)

Badawi, senior officials discuss agenda for supreme committee talks

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior Egyptian official Monday warned against any foreign intervention in Sudan's internal policies and said that Sudan is considered as a brotherly country and an extension of Egypt's strategic security.

Egyptian Assistant Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Badawi, currently on an official visit to Jordan, told the Jordan Times that his visit to Jordan comes within preparations for a meeting of the supreme joint Jordanian-Egyptian committee, headed by the prime ministers of the two countries. He said the meeting is expected to convene here towards the end of the current month.

Speaking about the supreme joint committee and its schedule, Mr. Badawi pointed out that the committee is due to review recent achievements and will tackle new horizons of mutual cooperation on reciprocal basis between the two countries. He said that sub-committees have been derived from the supreme committee which was formed straight after the restoration of political ties between Jordan and Egypt in October 1984.

The most significant fruit of the joint committee was the signing of the sea-land link between Aqaba and Nuweibe which is expected to operate following a joint inauguration on April 25 by His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Mr. Badawi said. He added that it also gave rise to labour and transportation agreements and that a media, cultural and an integrated economic cooperation agreement is underway.

Responding to a question on whether he is optimistic about the convening of an international peace conference, Mr. Badawi said: "Due to the current critical period, we hope that all concerned parties take steps to invigorate the stalemate in the peace process and the proper mean is through convening such a conference."

Turning to the Taba question between Israel and Egypt and its

latest developments, Mr. Badawi pointed out that a meeting was held in January at Beer Al Sabe'e attended by senior officials from the foreign ministries and ministries of defence of both sides. He did not disclose any results of the meeting but said that another meeting was due to convene at Al Esma'ieh but did not reveal the date.

During his stay in Amman, Mr. Badawi met with senior Jordanian officials for discussions on bolstering Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation in all fields and the initiation of a framework to be tackled in the agenda of the supreme committee meetings.

Mr. Badawi met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Taher Al Masri, Minister of Transport Farhi Obeid, Minister of Information Mohammad Al Khatib and Minister of Youth Hisham Sharari in addition to Tourism Director General Rafiq Allaham, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply Under Secretary Ibrahim Badran and Ministry of Information Under Secretary Michael Ham-ameh.

Mr. Badawi will pay a visit to Aqaba on Tuesday before leaving to Cairo on April 10 at the conclusion of his five day official visit to Jordan.

Jordan University holds scientific day

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan Monday held its annual 'Scientific Day' at the Faculty of Engineering and Technology.

University of Jordan Vice-President for Scientific Faculties Abdul Wahab Burlassi opened the day with a speech praising the engineering faculty members for their efforts to promote scientific research.

He said that the holding of the scientific day is a healthy tradition which should be supported and promoted by holding inter-faculty scientific gatherings. Dr. Burlassi also called for the establishment of a higher national council for scientific research.

The dean of scientific research at the university, Dr. Mohammad Adnan Bakheit, called for holding scientific weeks in all university colleges.

Dr. Bakheit said that the engineering faculty should take into consideration the needs of various construction and industrial sectors and that it should offer its expertise and testing equipment to these sectors.

The dean of the Engineering and Technology Faculty, Dr. Basam Abu Ghazaleh, said in his speech that his faculty is continually developing due to its qualified faculty members. He said

that the number of faculty research papers published in local and international scientific magazines has increased considerably.

He said that the Engineering and Technology Faculty has already introduced master and diploma courses, has increased its staff and teaching members and expanded its laboratories.

Engineers from public and private sectors and university faculty members participated in the day's activities.

Dr. Jamil Ayoub, scientific research committee at the Engineering and Technology Faculty, told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that seven scientific research papers were reviewed and discussed during the day.

Engineers from public and private sectors and university faculty members participated in the day's activities.

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Iraq 'ready to work for peace'

(Continued from page 1)

Iran's stance on the war and exchange views with Iranian officials. Diplomats in Tehran said the U.N. chief appeared to be on a fact-finding mission, rather than aiming at a breakthrough in peace negotiations.

Underlining Iraq's rejection of a partial ceasefire, the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra said Monday Iran had used a

U.N.-sponsored accord last June to strengthen its frontline troops. Tehran had used the agreement to halt attacks on civilian centres "in order to mass troops in their border towns, which they changed into springboards for aggression," it said.

Iraq has apparently stopped all air and missile attacks on Iranian towns since Mr. Perez de Cuellar announced last Saturday that he

would visit both Tehran and Baghdad.

But a high command communiqué said Iran had shelled residential areas in southern and northern Iraq.

The southern towns of Al Qurnah in the Huwizeh marshes and Shihabi, and the northeastern village of Chuman were shelled for at least five hours, it said.

TASS attacks U.S. rejection of freeze

(Continued from page 1)

negotiating reductions at the Geneva arms talks.

"It seems the U.S. administration wishes neither... an arms reduction nor the renunciation of the arms buildup," he said.

Chernyshev said the United States wanted to avoid sounding negative so it had advanced state arguments about arms levels.

"In reality the situation is entirely different from what official Washington tries to tell the public," he said, arguing that Soviet medium-range missile deployments in Europe only followed as a response to the U.S. stationing of cruise and Pershing-2 missiles from 1983.

In his interview with Pravda, Mr. Gorbachev reacted positively to President Reagan's offer of a summit meeting, although he did not say when or where a meeting could take place.

Mr. Gorbachev described the missile freeze as a goodwill gesture and, in the first mention in Moscow of an exchange of messages between the two leaders, said the summit question and wider issues had been discussed in correspondence with Mr. Reagan.

What the offer means The missile basing programme halted temporarily by Mr. Gorbachev affects mainly SS-20s targeted on big West European cit-

ies. The triple-warhead, mobile missile with a range of 5,000 kilometres could reach the West in 15-20 minutes. It has been deployed since 1977, and latest NATO estimates put the total at 414, two-thirds of them aimed at Western Europe.

Mr. Gorbachev's freeze apparently also affects about 300 older single-warhead SS-4s which are being replaced by SS-20s, and shorter-range, single-warhead SS-21 and SS-22 tactical missiles deployed since 1983-84 in East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

The SS-22, with a range of 900 kilometres, could reach a wide area of Northern Europe. The SS-21 has a range of only 120 kilometres but could hit West Germany.

Apart from even shorter-distance weapons for battlefield use, these are the only Soviet nuclear-capable missiles deployed in Eastern Europe outside Soviet territory.

According to Western est-

imates, there were about 130 SS-21s and SS-22s deployed as of last July, probably more.

Mr. Gorbachev wants the United States to respond to his presently unilateral freeze by halting deployment of single-warhead cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Western Europe.

As of March, NATO said "at least" 134 cruises and Pershings had been deployed in Britain, Belgium, West Germany and Italy, part of a five-year programme since 1983 to counter the SS-20 with 572 roughly similar U.S. medium-range missiles.

The Pershing, for deployment only in West Germany, is capable of hitting Soviet command posts — but not the Kremlin and other centres in Moscow — within 14 minutes of launch.

The cruise, slow and computer-controlled to hug the earth's contours, could take two hours to reach the Soviet Union but is hard to intercept.

CONDOLENCES

The Pontifical Mission for Palestine extends its deep sympathy to the family of Mr. Butrus Jabara Al Tawil on his recent death. May he rest in peace.



Model of the children's museum which the Haya Arts Centre plans to establish a part of its educational project for school children (J.T. file photo)

Jordan Times

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Where priorities lie

NINETEEN eighty five is the year of preparations for the new and upcoming five-year development plan 1986-1990. But if this plan, or any development plan, is essentially a list of projects to be implemented in any given period, we should have every reason to study and know where every one of our priorities lies.

Before we rush into drafting a new development plan for the Kingdom, let us think of those projects already implemented in the past five years. Some of them may well have to be put back on track prior to devising new ones.

We have to admit that some of our development projects have run into trouble and need rectification. These projects have cost us a lot of money and effort, and before embarking on drafting future plans, we have to set the record straight and identify the defects.

The process of rectification means not only saving huge investments; it also means the avoidance of repeating mistakes and clearing responsibilities in preparation for the new phase.

Our economic problems are not necessarily confined to big projects; they also lie in the budget, in our balance of payments and in the stock exchange. There are other difficulties — in agriculture, industry, trade, banking and supplies. These problems could not possibly be sidestepped by a new five-year plan which may take another year or so to be finalised. We need to identify the obstacles and the mistakes, diagnose them and develop practical solutions for them. Consequently, the issues should be discussed and resolved openly.

We admit that it is far easier to call for solutions than to find them. Still, it is much healthier for everybody to know of the need to adjust and correct as much and as often as we can.

Our new government is in a good position to identify and deal with this country's economic ailments. It has made clear its strong commitment to revitalise and strengthen the economy. Time is important. It should not be wasted.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Wish De Cuellar success

WE HAVE hope in the new initiative of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to end the Gulf conflict and wish him success in his endeavour to avert this region further destruction and bloodshed. The United Nations is the only power that can do that and achieve peace in view of the indifference displayed by world powers and following futile peace attempts carried out by world and regional organisations in this respect.

The major world powers have, over the past four years proved they were interested only in selling arms to the combatants on a purely commercial basis with no thought at all for the innocent people falling as a result of this devastating war. The so-called civilised world did not lift a finger to stop the war and end the sufferings of many people in our region. Only the Arab and Islamic countries were deeply concerned to see an end to the conflict and repeatedly made serious attempts to stop it. The Islamic countries were hoping all the time that Iran would fight the enemies of the Arabs and Islam instead of directing its guns on Arab lands to kill Arab and Muslim people and destroy their property.

The world powers, instead of being messengers of peace and justice continued to serve as a means of destruction by selling the two sides in the war more weapons with which to bring more ruin on one another. If the United Nations succeeds this time in achieving peace the road will be paved for a just and final solution to the Middle East problem.

Al Dustour: Promising pledges

REPORTS REACHING us from Sudan in the wake of the overthrow of the Numeiri regime cause relief and optimism to many here in the light of the statements and declared policies of the ruling junta. These statements reflect the army's intention to turn over power to a civilian administration in six months from now. They said that the coup which was bloodless came in order to restore democracy to the country because democratic rule remains the only means of averting further crises and further unrest and violence that characterised the era of the ousted regime. At the same time the military men in Sudan have promised to carry out reforms and improve relations with Sudan's neighbours.

The Sudanese army called on all the national forces in the country to pool their resources, for the formation of a national unity government, and announced that it was releasing all detained trade unionists who were imprisoned under Numeiri. These statements, which reflect the orientation of the armed forces, promise a good future for the country, and a period of stability and security which Sudan lacked for a long time.

We continue to follow closely the developments in Sudan with great hope that the Sudanese people will finally be allowed to enjoy a secure and stable life, free from repression and dictatorial rule.

Sawt Al Shaab: Exploring peace avenues

IT WAS clear from the start that the U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar had not carried with him to Tehran any peace plan, nor does he now hold any means for exercising pressure on the Iranian regime to stop the war. But de Cuellar went to Iran as a representative of the international community and the world public opinion which refuse the logic of force for ending disputes.

Though de Cuellar had explained that his mission was just a means for exploring ways to end the conflict, the Iranian regime went back on its commitments about the visit and issued a statement reaffirming its own position, and its call for a partial solution to the conflict by merely stopping the shelling of cities and the oil tankers. This means that Iran wants to continue the war with Iraq in other forms and other ways.

De Cuellar is well aware of the Iranian game and the implications of its proposals, and he considers the current conflict as a regional war that should not be settled by means of force because the United Nations is concerned to find a lasting settlement to the problem. What the secretary general can do now is to place matters in their right perspective by making it clear to the Iranian rulers that if they do not accept a comprehensive peace, they will be responsible for the continued bloodshed, and that their stubbornness constitutes a grave threat to world peace and security.

Soviet missile halt arouses little Western interest

By Sidney Weiland
 Reuter

LONDON — The Soviet Union's freeze on medium-range missile deployments in Europe was widely seen in the West as militarily meaningless but possibly a pointer to a changing Kremlin foreign policy.

Senior NATO alliance diplomats described the unilateral freeze, announced by Communist Party leader Mikhail Gorbachev, as the latest in a series of one-sided gestures intended to maintain Soviet nuclear superiority.

The White House rejected the halting of Moscow's SS-20 basing programme — set to last until November — as inadequate and called for missile reductions. In London, an official described foreign office reaction as "very cool and sceptical".

Diplomats noted however that

Mr. Gorbachev's first major policy statement since he took charge a month ago was conciliatory and virtually accepted a summit meeting offered by President Reagan. "I am convinced that a serious impulse should be given to Soviet-American relations at a high political level," the Kremlin chief told Pravda in an interview made public Sunday.

Neither Mr. Gorbachev nor U.S. officials have suggested a date for a meeting, but the two leaders are widely expected to meet in the autumn, probably at the United Nations in New York.

Mr. Gorbachev's positive references to the summit and to making U.S.-Soviet relations "more stable and constructive" were seen by some analysts as more important than the freeze.

The Soviet Union has sought to freeze both strategic and European-based missiles since

arms talks began in 1981. When talks resumed in Geneva last month, after a 15-month break, it called also for a halt to space weapons research.

The U.S. and other NATO governments hold that moratoria would only "contractualise" Soviet superiority or are designed to blunt Western defence efforts, as with space research.

Officials contacted in Western capitals said this was still the basic position, although the freeze would prove embarrassing to some governments under pressure from anti-nuclear movements, such as West Germany's.

They said it was a move in an expected campaign to divide the West both over missiles and on Mr. Reagan's controversial "Star Wars" space project, his Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

Some officials said Mr. Gorbachev may have used the freeze

to show himself in a positive light as a new and vigorous leader.

The British Foreign Office said the freeze "would still leave them with a very heavy imbalance in their favour".

Western figures put the number of SS-20 missiles at 414 in March, with about two-thirds of the triple-warhead weapons targeted on West European cities, a total of 1,242 warheads, each with 150 kilotons of explosive punch.

So far, the West has about 130 medium-range U.S. cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Britain, Belgium, West Germany and Italy, but they carry only single warheads with lower yields.

Some Western experts believe Mr. Gorbachev's freeze makes no sense because Moscow may already have completed or is close to completing a "SS-20 deployment programme started in 1977".

The original target was believed

to be 400 missiles, including about 130 aimed at China, Japan and elsewhere in Asia. Soviet "overkill" capacity against Western Europe is enormous.

Mr. Gorbachev's limit on the freeze until November, pending U.S. agreement to stop the basing of similar weapons in Europe, was linked by analysts both to preparations for a summit and to a promised Dutch decision on cruise deployments.

The Netherlands has said it will decide finally in November whether to accept 48 cruises.

Because of the time factor, "the whole thing begins to smell of rotten fish," one Western diplomat said.

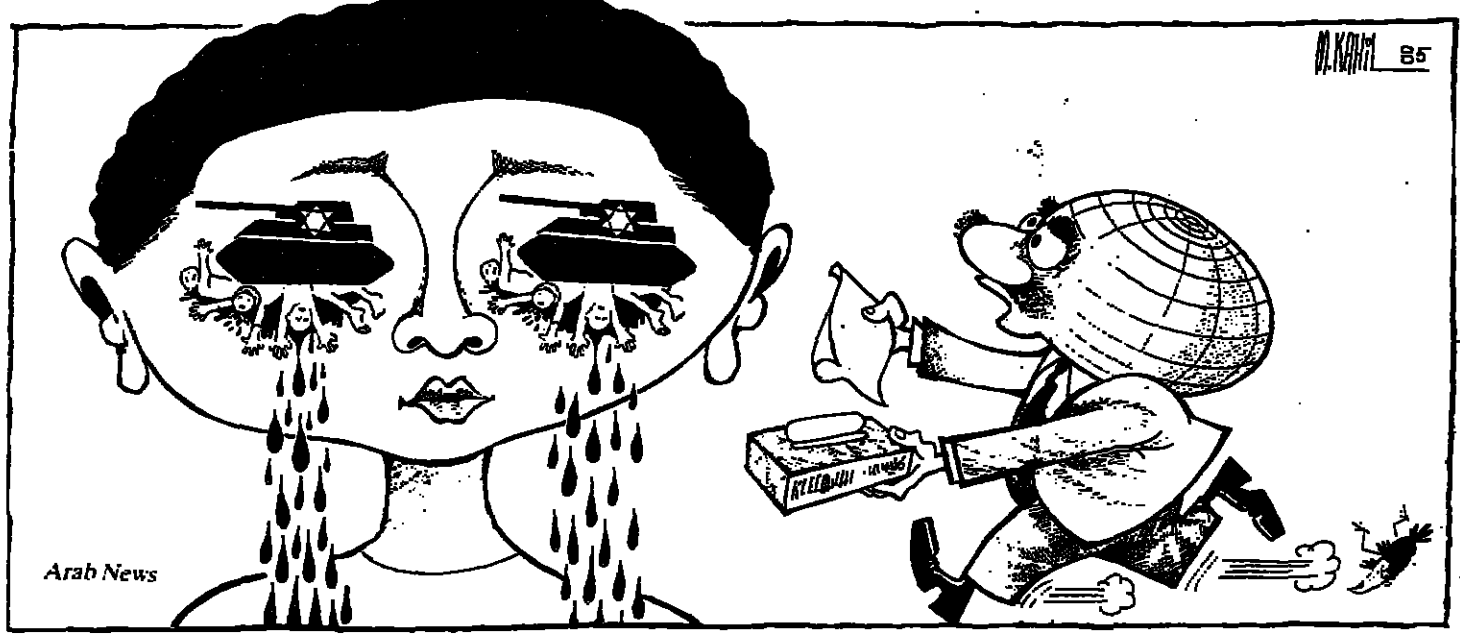
The freeze is similar to one declared by President Leonid Brezhnev in March 1982 covering deployments in European areas of the Soviet Union. At that time, there were 300 SS-20s.

The Brezhnev freeze was cancelled by his successor Yuri Andropov in November 1983, when the Soviet Union broke off arms talks because of the first cruise and Pershing deployments.

U.S. officials had alleged that the freeze was consistently broken by Moscow during its 20-month duration.

Mr. Gorbachev also froze the further basing of shorter-range SS-21s and SS-22s in East Germany and Czechoslovakia. This was another retaliatory move against the U.S. missiles, but was regarded by the West as only of marginal significance.

Diplomats noted that the Soviet leader was relatively mild about SDI, although he called the project dangerous. In other statements, Moscow has described the space defence programme as a serious threat to arms negotiations.



Europeans in quandary over 'Star Wars'

By Paul Taylor
 Reuter

BRUSSELS — West European governments are in a quandary over whether to respond jointly to a U.S. invitation to join President Reagan's controversial "Star Wars" research programme on a space-based anti-missile defence, officials say.

U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger added urgency to the problem last week by giving Washington's allies 60 days to declare individually if they wanted a share in the lucrative project.

While West Germany, France and Italy favour a joint approach to the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher seems deter-

mined to press ahead bilaterally with Washington, preventing a United European front.

Senior officials attending a European Community summit in Brussels last weekend said the crunch would come on April 22-23, when defence and foreign ministers of the seven-nation Western European Union (WEU) meet in Bonn.

If we don't get our act together in Bonn, the Americans will pick off our firms one by one on their own terms without us having any real political say in the direction of the project or on the issues of technology and work sharing," one said.

But the prospect of a European agreement on joint conditions for joining the \$26-billion SDI seems

increasingly dim.

Mr. Weinberger responded sharply last week when asked if the U.S. would accept a joint European reply to his invitation. The question was "purely hypothetical and speculative," he said.

Although the European allies signed a NATO statement last week backing the U.S. research effort, many have deep misgivings about its longer-term political and strategic implications.

"If we rejected the whole idea now, we would lose any influence with the Americans. If we join, we have at least some hope of seeing that European strategic interests are taken into account," a European NATO official said.

European officials said Britain's apparent intention to go it alone

was by no means the only obstacle to coordinated European approach to "Star Wars".

The attitude of France, West Europe's leading space power, was also shrouded in uncertainty, they said.

French leaders have been the most openly critical of the U.S. programme, which President Mitterrand has described as "over-ambitious". Informed sources said Paris had tried to interest other partners in a purely European research effort.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl last month proposed a joint European approach to "Star Wars", but his spokesman said Monday Bonn's decision would not depend on the attitude of its allies.

France's proportional voting irks the right

By Pascal Lietout
 Reuter

PARIS — The planned re-introduction of proportional representation in France, which provoked the resignation of a key minister Thursday, will force voters to readjust to a system last used nearly 30 years ago.

President Francois Mitterrand's controversial plan, announced Wednesday after a cabinet meeting, is certain to be adopted by the national assembly, which is dominated by his Socialist Party, during its spring session.

Proportional representation was abandoned after the 1956 parliamentary elections under the Fourth Republic. Following the takeover by President Charles de Gaulle in 1958 and the proclamation of the Fifth Republic, a first-past-the-post system was introduced.

Opposition leaders have fier-

rely attacked Mr. Mitterrand's plans, which provoked the resignation Thursday of Agriculture Minister Michel Rocard, the second most popular politician in the government after Prime Minister Laurent Fabius.

The opposition accused Mr. Mitterrand of a political manoeuvre aimed at containing the Socialist's steady electoral decline. "With proportional representation the president of the republic has decided in favour of his own personal interests rather than those of the country," the conservative UDF and RPR parties said in a statement.

Valery Giscard d'Estaing, who was denied a second presidential term by Mr. Mitterrand in 1981, predicted political instability with the new system.

"It is a sad day for the Fifth Republic... which relies on two pillars: the president elected by

universal suffrage and the possibility of building a strong governing majority. The proposals will cause the collapse of the second pillar," he said.

Mr. Mitterrand Thursday defended his plan. "The third and fourth republics were both unstable, the latter with a proportional system, the former with a majority one. This shows that the voting system is not the reason for France's (political) instability," Mr. Mitterrand told reporters in southwestern France.

Under the present French system a candidate is elected provided he wins more than half the votes cast. If no-one wins an absolute majority, the top two candidates compete for the seat in a second round.

Mr. Mitterrand's plan calls for proportional voting in a single round on the department (district) level with a five per cent threshold to win a seat. The reform will also

apply to regional council elections.

French newspapers saw the planned reform as a major political change and several said it marked the end of the Fifth Republic.

The right-wing Le Figaro said in a front-page headline: "Mitterrand breaks the Fifth Republic".

The centre-right Le Quotidien called Mr. Mitterrand's move "death of a republic".

The planned reform will include a redistribution of seats in departments to take account of population changes. There will be one seat for about 100,000 inhabitants. Some Paris suburban areas, many of them strongholds for the Socialists, are likely to see their representation dramatically increased.

The redistribution will cause an increase of 86 seats, raising the total number of assembly representatives to 577.

Ershad likely to hold non-party May election

By Victoria Graham
 Associated Press

DHAKA — Military ruler Gen. H.M. Ershad, seeking to create a power base in the countryside, is likely to hold local non-party elections in May, according to official sources and local political analysts.

Despite Gen. Ershad's promise of national democracy and ending martial law, parliamentary elections now appear extremely remote because of a recalcitrant, fragmented opposition which boycotted national polls scheduled for Saturday (April 6). They demanded he first lift his martial law.

While the muzzled and hounded parties have vowed to struggle against military rule, their credibility is low and their impact negligible.

Gen. Ershad, who took power in a bloodless coup three years ago, has said he will hold non-partisan elections for council chairman of 460 Upazila, local units he created to decentralise the gov-

ernment of 100 people. They take administration, courts, banking and health care to the grass roots level and allocate central funds for economic development of the nation's 68 000 villages.

Electing his men to these key subdistricts will greatly strengthen Gen. Ershad's organisational base and improve his position on future parliamentary polls. If the local elections are free and fair, they could confer a legitimacy that the rigged national referendum on his policies could not provide.

No date has been set, but a decision and announcement are expected soon with voting likely before the Muslim observance of Ramadan and the onset of monsoon — making the first half of May the likely target.

"Ershad cannot wait too long after the referendum. He cannot rest on his laurels or sit back now," said one local observer. "He has the momentum, he holds all the cards and can design the scenario, but he cannot coast while the opposition regrouping."

Compared with the apathetic, no contest referendum March 21, the local elections are expected to generate considerable enthusiasm, despite censored campaign statements and violence.

Candidates would campaign strictly as individuals without party labels, although affiliations would be clear. Anti-martial law and anti-Ershad statements would be banned, as they were for the referendum by tough new martial law regulations promulgated March 1 to halt opposition clashes in the streets. Gen. Ershad has ruled out immediate relaxation.

One of his major concerns is whether the local elections could be managed without massive violence and whether more than 1,000 candidates could be protected.

Another concern is whether the opposition parties — two major alliances of seven and 15 parties — would go along. Most observers, including influential opposition members, believe they would have to, although their par-

ticipation would lend credibility to Gen. Ershad.

Still, the argument goes, they cannot afford to sit out the election. They also stand to make some gains and repair their own image of ineffectiveness and faltering credibility.

The opposition boycotted the parliamentary polls scheduled April 6. They previously boycotted two other parliamentary and presidential elections and an Upazila election in March 1983. They demanded lifting martial law, first.

But their rigid stand and non-participation now is widely regarded as a political blunder. Not to take part in local elections would be a major setback and strategic mistake.

The splintered and bickering opposition had vowed to prevent the referendum and disrupt it but was unable or unwilling to do so, losing credibility as a result and fading further as a viable alternative to run the impoverished country.

Message from an Israeli: The PLO cannot be ignored

By Meir Merhav

The writer is a member of the editorial staff of The Jerusalem Post. This article was adapted for The New York Times from an essay published there.

JERUSALEM — There has long been a national consensus among Israelis that we will not talk to the Palestine Liberation Organisation. In this, we are making a grave mistake, for "detestable" as the PLO may appear to us, it is the only plausible representative of the Palestinian people.

The proposals put forward by Yasser Arafat, King Hussein and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt for talks with Israel about the future of the occupied territories have provoked a new chorus of refusal: Everyone who counts in Israeli politics has declared once again that we shall never talk to the PLO. So far, the Reagan administration — provided, no doubt, by Jerusalem — has stood loyally by them.

In fact, Israel undertook long ago, in the Camp David accord, to talk to the Palestinians about their future. That commitment remains binding on any government of Israel.

The current government, a fragile coalition led by the Labour Party, is committed to a "Jordanian" solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. It has therefore responded with lukewarm interest to Mr. Mubarak's suggestion for talks with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

But the crux of his initiative is not negotiations between Israel and the Jordan: It is to get Israelis talking to Palestinians. Mr. Mubarak knows well enough that there can be no solution to the Palestinian problem unless this happens.

Yet most Israelis remain obdurate. "Jerusalem" will not sit down with representatives of the PLO. Nor will it accept anyone nominated by the PLO. At best,

If Israel wants peace, it must make peace — with its mortal enemies above all. To try to settle with proxy negotiators would be futile at best, and potentially dangerous.

some moderate Israelis seem willing not to look too closely into the political biographies of Palestinians who may come to the table.

To such Israelis, it would be acceptable if Palestinian negotiators sympathised with the PLO. They might voice its positions; they might even, on the quiet, really be PLO nominees — as long as they are not officially members of that organisation. To qualify, they must also abjure terrorism and renounce most of the PLO's extreme demands — including the Palestinian Covenant's call for the destruction of the state of Israel, the claims to Jerusalem and the demand that Palestinian refugees be granted the right of return.

It would certainly be a good thing for Israel if such "moderate" Palestinians could be found — and bestowed with the power to make agreements that would be binding on their fellow Palestinians. That, however, is not now the case.

Many Palestinians are no doubt ready to abjure terrorism and give up the armed struggle against Israel — if only for the practical reason that neither the Palestinians nor the rest of the Arab World has the power to vanquish Israel by force. Others may be willing to abandon the dream of returning to Jaffa, Haifa, Lod, Ramla and the other towns and villages where they or their forebears were born. A few may even be willing to ac-

cept, with clenched teeth, Israel's insistence on holding on to parts of the West Bank that it considers vital for its security.

But no Palestinians will waive the right to self-determination — the right to national sovereignty over however small a homeland of their own. And no Palestinian signature on any pact will be binding unless it is seen as satisfying these aspirations.

Why, then, do some Israelis seem interested in sitting down with non-PLO Palestinians? Many have a cynical logic of their own. Israel would "negotiate" with Palestinians who represent no one but themselves; it might even reach a "settlement" with some carefully chosen "notables" — only to have that settlement promptly rejected and its signatories branded as traitors, if not worse.

With this, Israel would have demonstrated that it can be conciliatory — and at the same time would have ensured that nothing came of the talks. We would thus persuade ourselves and the rest of the world that there is "no one to talk to" among the Arabs about the territories.

What would be wrong with this? Why not highlight the impasse for all the world to see? Because, in the end, the Palestinian problem is also Israel's problem, and it is unacceptable to those of us who do not want Israel to become a binational state — another Lebanon, in effect — or to remain forever a walled-in fortress surviving from one war to the next and paying the debts in between.

True, even if Israel did agree to sit down with official representatives of the PLO, there would be no assurance that the outcome would be honoured by all PLO factions or the rejectionist Arab states. It is, however, certain that no other Palestinian spokesman would be able to sign an accord if it was unacceptable to the PLO.

Moreover, not being official representatives, such "acceptable" negotiators might well have to be more obdurate than the PLO itself.

True, the PLO is Israel's mortal enemy. It is not prepared to accept the validity of the Zionist tenets that underpin Israel's existence. And it claims political and historical rights to areas from which Palestinians fled or were expelled in 1948.

The PLO's mainstream faction may in practice be prepared today to settle for less than was envisioned in the Palestinian Covenant. But there is no certainty that the organisation's tactical retreat to more limited goals — it is now demanding a Palestinian state restricted to the areas occupied by Israel in 1967 — will be accepted by all its factions or the rejectionist Arab states.

Indeed, the attainment of this more limited objective might well turn out to be a springboard for reviving the long-range irreducible goal of eliminating the state of Israel.

Nor, finally, is it by any means clear that the PLO is prepared to abandon what it calls the "armed struggle" — its strategy of indiscriminate "terror" against civilians.

But if Israel wants peace, it must make peace — with its mortal enemies above all. To try to settle with proxy negotiators would be futile at best, and potentially dangerous. Israel must insist on speaking directly to those who can make peace.

How long must it take, how many more wars must be fought, and how much treasure spent before we recognise that the PLO is the genuine representative of the Palestinian people and the key to any settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict?



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Finland's Kankunnen wins Safari Rally at 1st attempt

NAIROBI (R) — Finland's Juha Kankunnen snatched the lead in the closing hours and won the Safari Motor Rally at his first attempt Monday to give Toyota victory for the second year running.

Kankunnen was followed into the Kenyan capital after five days of sun, sand and mud by teammate Bjorn Waldegaard of Sweden to give Toyota double satisfaction. Third was Kenyan Mike Kirkland in a Nissan 240 RS.

But it was Kankunnen's day as he sprayed champagne at a huge crowd, including Finnish children waving the national flag.

"This is my first World Championship win, it's a good birthday present," said Kankunnen, who turned 27 on April 2, two days before 71 cars started off on the five-day rally.

"I'm young, and whenever someone got past me I got so mad I pushed even harder," he said. Kankunnen dispelled the myth that you must have a few grey hairs on your head before you can master the safari's unique blend of ever-changing terrain at speed.

But he proved the wisdom of another rally saying — that the race is never over until you get to the finishing line, even in the final hours of the last section.

It was at that stage Monday that West German Erwin Weber, in his first World Championship race, held a 10-minute lead over Kankunnen and looked to be cruising home.

But Weber blew the cylinder head of his Open Manta and lost more than an hour trying to fix it — and the rally. He finished fifth behind the perennial tryer Rauno Aaltonen of Finland in an Opel, who is still looking for his first win after 22 attempts.

"I couldn't believe it when I heard Weber had dropped out," said Kankunnen. "There was a big guy in the sky who helped me."

His victory marked something of a comeback for the two-wheel drive, conventionally-powered classic rallying cars over the four-wheel-drive turbocharged vehicles which have dominated rallying in Europe over the past few seasons.

Of this new breed, neither of the two works Audi Sport Quattros finished and only one Peugeot 205 turbo 16, driven by Finland's

Timo Salonen, survived out of three starters.

By unofficial count, only 19 of 71 starters finished and the last cars over the line were some three hours behind Kankunnen.

Among the early casualties were reigning world rallying champion Stig Blomqvist of Sweden and Hannu Mikkola of Finland, both driving Audis.

Italy's Aulio Bettega in a Lancia, then Waldegaard himself, Weber, Aaltonen and Weber again all took the lead as the rally wound its 5,200 kms way around Kenya.

It was a particularly bitter start for the Peugeot team, whose small turbocharged 205 had won six successive rallies and was making its first appearance in the safari.

Jordan holds Valetta to 2-2 draw

VALETTA, Malta (J.T.) — The Jordanian national soccer team Monday drew 2-2 with Malta's first division leaders Valetta team.

The first half of the friendly match ended with Jordan leading 2-1. Khaled Awad scored both goals for Jordan. In the second half Valetta scored the equaliser from a penalty kick.

The National Jordanian team are in Malta for friendly matches against Maltese teams in preparation for their World Cup qualifying match against Qatar in Doha on Friday. Jordan defeated Qatar 1-0 in the home leg three weeks ago.

Uruguay first to qualify for World Cup finals

MONTEVIDEO (R) — Uruguay played attacking football Sunday to beat Chile 2-1 (halftime 1-1) and become the first team to qualify for the World Cup finals in Mexico next year.

Uruguay, World Cup winners in 1930 and 1950 and favoured to win South American Group Two, were rocked by a 2-0 defeat in their away match against Chile two weeks ago.

Going into Sunday's game with four points against Chile's five, they had to win to book a place in Mexico while Chile would have been content with a draw.

The home side attacked from the start and were rewarded when Batista scored from a free kick in the ninth minute.

Chile packed their defence but launched lightning counter-attacks to take advantage of Uruguay's strategy of bringing eve-

ryone forward.

In one such raid Chilean forward Caszely was fouled in the area by Uruguayan defender Perceyra, and Aravena made no mistake with the penalty to equalise in the 28th minute.

Uruguay got the winner 12 minutes into the second half with another penalty fired in by Ramos after striker Francescoli was fouled in the Chilean area.

More than 70,000 fans packed the stadium to capacity to watch the home team qualify for Mexico, the first time they have reached the final rounds since 1974.

The other side in Group Two, Ecuador, scored just one point.

Chile still has a chance to qualify for Mexico in the reclassification round played between sides which finish second in the three South American groups. One of the teams will go through.

Connors defaults final to McEnroe

CHICAGO (R) — Jimmy Connors, suffering from severe back pain Sunday defaulted the final of the \$315,000 Chicago Classic Grand Prix tennis tournament to John McEnroe.

"This has never happened. I've never not played," Connors said.

Visibly bent over during the press conference, Connors said he felt stiffness in his lower back this morning and came to the stadium early for treatment, to no avail.

"Maybe I played too many times hurt," Connors said.

"I'm no kid any more," the 32-year-old American said. "It takes longer for me to heal." He said he might be able to play again in seven to ten days.

In the semi-finals, Connors, the second seed, beat third-seeded Andres Gomez of Ecuador 6-4, 6-3 and McEnroe, the top seed,

beat eighth-seeded Scott Davis of the U.S. 6-4, 6-1.

The announcement of Sunday's default of the final of Chicago's first Grand Prix tennis tournament in 10 years was made just before the match was to begin.

Tournament referee Frank Hammond told the packed stadium McEnroe had consented to play a three-set exhibition with fellow American Eliot Teltscher.

Ovett scores road race victory

VIGEVANO, Italy (R) — Britain's Steve Ovett was in fine fettle as he won the seven-km Golden Shoe Road Race Monday, his first full race since collapsing at the Los Angeles Olympics last year.

Ovett, the world 1,500 metres record holder, raised his left arm in triumph as he cruised across the finishing line in Vigevano's medieval main square in 20 minutes 7.30 seconds, a comfortable two seconds ahead of Italy's Francesco Panatta.

By halfway through the race, run in slippery conditions under light rain, Ovett, Panatta and Brazil's Jose Joao da Silva, who finished third, had opened a commanding lead over the rest of the 57-strong field, all Italians.

Prost claims opening race of Formula One championship

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Frenchman Alain Prost made a flying start to his World Championship bid when he drove his McLaren to a second successive victory in the Brazilian Grand Prix Sunday.

After Michele Alboreto set the early pace in his Ferrari, Prost, pipped for the world title by Austrian team-mate Niki Lauda last year, slipped in front with less than a third of the race gone when the Italian appeared to miss a gear change.

The diminutive Frenchman went on to drive a faultless race and never looked like being caught, although Alboreto narrowed the gap in the closing stages as Prost eased back to save fuel.

When Prost took the chequered flag, only Alboreto and fellow Italian Elio de Angelis, who finished third in his Lotus for the second year running, were on the same lap.

Overall it was a good day for France, with Rene Arnoux (Ferrari), Patrick Tambay (Renault) and Jacques Laffite (Ligier) all scoring World Championship points, though lapped twice by Prost.

It was not such a happy start to the season for Lauda, who, after climbing to third early on, was forced out of contention by engine trouble.

"The car just got better and better as the race went on," said Prost, who was reluctant to discuss his chances of becoming the first Frenchman to win the world title.

"I'm delighted with nine points for victory, but the season still has a long way to run."

Prost said he thought his choice of hard tyres was a key factor in his victory.

Firemen sprayed the crowd with water as temperatures at the Jacarepagu circuit soared to 50 centigrade, forcing the drivers into

early tyre changes. Last season, the mighty McLaren stormed to 12 victories in 16 Grands Prix, and Prost is confident he and Lauda will enjoy further success in 1985.

"We showed we're still the dominating team, although Ferrari have reduced the gap which existed last year," he added.

Alboreto said he was pleased with his performance, adding that Ferrari had a good chance of securing their first drivers' title since South African Jody Scheckter triumphed in 1979.

The winding 5.03-km track and the heat took a heavy toll and only 14 cars were still running when Prost crossed the line.

Tambay set a lap record of 1:26.525 during the race, suggesting the new safety regulations, which include a reduction in aerodynamic downforce on the cars, have not cut speeds.

Reluctant Lendl leaves with Monte Carlo title

MONTE CARLO (R) — Ivan Lendl, reluctant guest at Monte Carlo's tennis party, left with the champion's prize and his confidence boosted for his next date on clay, his French Open title defence.

The Czechoslovak top seed was in fighting mood here and a swipe with his racket at an advertising hoarding after a critical penalty point in Sunday's final cost him 1,000 of his \$58,500 prize for unsportsmanlike conduct.

But Lendl mainly channelled his aggression into the more profitable task of winning, most impressively in the final against Australian Open Champion Mats Wilander 6-1, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

The world number three's most effective answers to Wilander were his armoury of forehands and backhand passes and a big serve, which — despite an erratic spell of six dropped service games — yielded 14 aces, allied with fitness and patience.

The fitness, which Lendl attributes partly to a new diet, enabled him to finish off his interrupted four-hour semifinal aga-

inst defending champion Henrik Sundstrom and return three hours later for a three-and-a-half hour duel with 1983 champion Wilander, Sundstrom's victim in last year's final.

Wilander was not surprised Lendl had won the final, but he was surprised he had got that far after a long absence from clay. Lendl's last venture on the slow surface was in the Davis Cup semifinals in Sweden in October.

"Patience is the key to the

claycourt game," Lendl said. "As long as you're in top shape you can do it. If you get tired, you're going to lose."

Lendl, who missed Czechoslovakia's Davis Cup first round win over the Soviet Union last month, said he hoped to play in the second round against Ecuador in August.

But he has reservations about the competition. "Conditions in some countries make it almost impossible to win away," he said.

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U.S. deployment unaffected by Soviet missile freeze

SANTA BARBARA, California (R) — The Reagan administration says deployment of U.S. nuclear missiles in Western Europe will continue despite a temporary Soviet freeze on medium-range weapons.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said Moscow already enjoyed a lopsided 10 to one advantage in intermediate nuclear forces and called the proposal by new Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev another attempt to freeze the advantage in place.

"The proposal for a moratorium seems to revive prior Soviet efforts designed to freeze in place their considerable advantage ... it is not going to interrupt U.S. deployment," he said Sunday.

Mr. Gorbachev, in an interview with Pravda, said Moscow would freeze deployment of medium-range missiles in Europe until November and expressed hope that the United States would follow suit.

But Mr. Speakes said the administration rejected any Soviet overture requiring Washington to cease deployment of 572 Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in Western Europe under a 1978 North Atlantic Treaty Org-

anisation (NATO) agreement. West Germany, Italy, Britain and Belgium have begun to receive the single-warhead nuclear weapons. The Netherlands has not yet announced a decision.

U.S. officials said the Soviet Union had deployed about 415 triple-warhead SS 20s, one third aimed at Asia and two thirds targeted on Western Europe. It put SS 21s and SS 22s in East Germany and Czechoslovakia in response to deployment of cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Western Europe in November 1983.

"We believe the most pressing need is to achieve significant reductions and that this can be done in talks in Geneva," Mr. Speakes said.

President Reagan believes the United States and the Soviet Union can negotiate reductions in the talks which resumed on March 12 after a 15-month break. He said.

"The president calls on the Sov-

iet Union to join in this effort," Mr. Speakes added.

While the Reagan administration saw little or nothing new in Mr. Gorbachev's proposal, officials declined to describe it as a propaganda offensive as has been done in the past.

"I think it remains to be seen as to whether this will be followed up by other type things," Mr. Speakes said.

Mr. Gorbachev, in the interview, also responded positively to the principle of a summit meeting with Mr. Reagan, but Mr. Speakes said his remarks had not moved the process forward.

"The summit aspects of the interview have been basically what we have said. We both expressed a desire to have a summit and we have not yet agreed when and where the meeting will take place."

At this time, there were no talks between Soviet and U.S. officials on a framework or arrangement for a summit, Mr. Speakes added.

Mr. Gorbachev's interview, which appeared in Pravda Monday, was broadcast and published in advance Sunday.

The Kremlin chief, 54, said Moscow's freeze on its medium-

range missiles deployment and other measures taken in Europe in response to the installation of U.S. cruise and Pershing-2 rockets on the continent would start from Sunday.

The fate of the moratorium after November would depend on the U.S. response, said Mr. Gorbachev, who replaced the late Konstantin Chernenko as party leader on March 11.

It was the appearance of U.S. cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Western Europe in November 1983 which led Moscow to take retaliatory measures. It put new missiles in East Germany and Czechoslovakia, stationed nuclear-armed submarines on the U.S. coast and introduced long-range bombers.

Mr. Gorbachev made clear the freeze applied only to measures in Europe, presumably excluding submarines and perhaps bombers. "We are for honest dialogue. We are prepared to demonstrate our good will again," Mr. Gorbachev said.

Late Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev offered a similar freeze on some Soviet missiles in March 1982 but the U.S. rejected it.



RIFAI RECEIVES OMANI MINISTER: Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai (right) confers in his office Monday with Omani Minister of National Heritage Faisal Ibn Ali (center) who is currently on a visit to Jordan. The meeting was attended by Omani Ambassador to Jordan Abdullah Sa'id (left) — Petra photo.

Howe starts visit to E. Germany

EAST BERLIN (R) — Sir Geoffrey Howe arrived in East Germany Monday at the start of a three-day tour aimed at improving ties with smaller Soviet Bloc states.

Sir Geoffrey, making the first visit to East Berlin by a British foreign secretary, was met at the airport by Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer.

The two-day visit to East Germany is expected to focus on bilateral issues including, on East-West efforts at arms reduction, the Soviet Union's offer this weekend to freeze its deployment of medium-range missiles in Europe until November.

Trade issues will also be raised. Sir Geoffrey will have talks with East German leader Erich Honecker and Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer before continuing to Czechoslovakia and Poland.

Mr. Fischer, recently returned from a visit to Portugal, told Reuters in an interview he considered

Sir Geoffrey's visit, the latest in a series of high-level contacts between London and East Berlin, "timely and significant".

"Dialogue on ending the arms race ... is indispensable. This responsibility is borne by all politicians, especially if they belong to different alliances," he said.

East Berlin stressed the importance of smaller states in East-West dialogue last year during a period of silence between Moscow and Washington. Mr. Honecker maintained contacts with several NATO countries, hosting visits by Italian and Greek leaders.

This week's talks and Friday's announcement of a visit by Mr. Honecker to East Berlin still values these contacts despite this year's resumption of Geneva nuclear arms talks between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

Sir Geoffrey believes closer contacts with smaller Warsaw Pact

nations are a good way of relaying policy to the Kremlin.

Western diplomats said East German officials privately welcomed Sir Geoffrey's recent comments expressing doubts about President Reagan's plans for a space-based defence system.

The official press made few references to his speech. But the diplomats said the East German authorities were probably wary of possible Western accusations that they sought to stir debate inside the alliance.

"Both sides recognise limits of their influence within their respective alliances and don't aim to shake the world. But they both advocate a more active role for smaller countries in key issues," one senior Western diplomat said.

The limits of Mr. Honecker's role were demonstrated last autumn when a Soviet press campaign against Bonn ended in cancellation of a planned visit to West Germany.

France paves way for better ties with Seoul

SEOUL (R) — France paved the way for better relations with South Korea by pledging Monday not to recognise Communist North Korea without Seoul's consent, officials said.

French Prime Minister Laurent Fabius told South Korean Prime Minister Lho Shin-Yong that the renouncing of North Korea's trade mission in Paris as a general declaration had no diplomatic significance.

It was simply an administrative action reflecting the mission's wider role, he said.

The change last December caused a diplomatic row, but officials described the atmosphere at a

lunch for Mr. Fabius given by President Chun Doo Hwan Monday as very cordial and said the rift between the two countries appeared to have been healed.

French Foreign Trade Minister Edith Cresson told reporters Monday morning that both countries had an interest in resuming normal trade relations.

She said the first sign this was happening came when she met the chairman of the Pohang Steel Company (POSCO) to discuss a possible French contract.

Air Liquide of France is already working on the first stage on an oxygen production plant at POSCO's east coast steel complex.

Chun, Reagan to hold talks in U.S. this month

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan will visit Washington from April 25-27 for talks with President Reagan on international issues and the expansion of trade, Western diplomats said Monday.

An official announcement on the visit, Mr. Chun's second to the United States, was expected Tuesday.

Mr. Chun will leave on April 24 and visit Honolulu and Los Angeles before holding two rounds of working sessions with Mr. Reagan in Washington, the diplomats said.

Mr. Chun was the first foreign leader to visit Washington after Mr. Reagan took office in 1981. Mr. Reagan visited South Korea in 1983.

Relations are good between the two allies, but Mr. Chun and his delegation are expected to bring up the issue of the U.S. sale of 87 helicopters to North Korea through third countries. Seoul has called for sanctions against the firms concerned.

Washington told Seoul last month it was ready for talks on how to prevent major materials or technology entering North Korea in future.

North and South Korea fought a three-year war ending in 1953 and Mr. Chun is expected to discuss what South Korea regards as a continuing threat by Pyongyang to take the South by force.

More than 40,000 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea and U.S.-South Korean military exercises are due to end this month.

Diplomats said Mr. Chun and Reagan would discuss the situation on the Korean peninsula and Red Cross and trade talks between North and South Korea due to resume later this month and May.

The other differences between the U.S. and South Korea concern a simmering trade dispute in which Seoul accuses Washington of raising unnecessary barriers against its products such as coloured television sets.

Kampuchean rebels fight back at Nong Chan base

BANGKOK (R) — Vietnamese troops Monday held off a Kampuchean guerrilla counter-attack inside the guerrillas' Nong Chan base in Western Kampuchea, the Thai military said.

Deputy Thai border force commander Col. Chetha Thajaro told Reuters by telephone that Nong Chan was not yet fully under the control of the Vietnamese, who seized most of it Sunday.

But the few hundred Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KNPLF) guerrillas defending the camp, which hugs the frontier with Thailand about 250 kilometres east of here, had been pushed back to the border.

The guerrilla counter-attack aimed at killing Vietnamese rather than retaking the camp, Col. Chetha said.

Six guerrillas were killed and about 15 badly wounded in Sunday's Vietnamese assault, he added.

The sprawling camp was once a main base for KNPLF operations as well as a centre for smuggling goods into Kampuchea.

It housed about 22,000 civilians and several thousand guerrillas until Vietnamese troops first overran the camp in November.

Guerrillas reoccupied the base one month later but surrounding Vietnamese units had limited their activity and black market trade, KNPLF sources said.

Col. Chetha predicted Vietnamese forces would soon strike at KNPLF remnants at Nong Samet Camp, about 30 kilometres north east of Nong Chan, as part of Hanoi's plan to seal the 700 kilometre long border to guerrillas supplied from Thailand.

Nong Samet — also known as Rithisen — was partially overrun by a Vietnamese assault on Christmas Day.

Col. Chetha also said he believed Vietnamese troops would remain along the border to stop guerrilla infiltration after the rainy season begins in May or June.

Vietnam's dry season offensive launched in November smashed all the border bases of the non-Communist KNPLF and National Sihanoukian Army (ANS) and the Peking-backed Khmer Rouge.

U.S. shuttle Discovery lifts off Friday

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — The space shuttle Discovery, with U.S. Senator Jake Garn in the crew as a congressional observer, is set to lift off Friday, igniting the busiest month of the shuttle era.

The launch is to be followed by the arrival here of Atlantis, the fourth and last shuttle, carried from California atop a Boeing 747 jetliner. Two days after that, the shuttle Challenger will roll to the launch pad.

Discovery is to fly a five-day mission and land here on April 17. Twelve days later, on April 29, Challenger is to blaze into space for a seven-day journey with a European-built space laboratory.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) hopes to achieve this tight schedule without a hitch, to move toward its long-sought goal of launching at least one shuttle a month.

On Friday, NASA released a revised shuttle launch schedule

which lists 41 flights through the end of 1987. That includes nine more flights this year, 15 in 1986 and 17 in 1987.

The addition of Atlantis to the fleet and Columbia's return to flight status this summer after a long overhaul, plus two new shuttle launch pads, will enable the agency to meet the accelerated schedule. By early next year, a second pad will be ready here and another will be completed at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California.

But NASA's best laid plans often get waylaid. Sen. Garn's flight, which has been postponed five times, is a good example.

Six of the seven members of the original Garn crew, commanded by astronaut Karol Bobko, were named to fly the new mission. French astronaut Patrick Baudry was dropped in favour of Charles Walker because a drug-processing machine Walker will operate already had been installed in Discovery's cabin. With the machine in place, there was no room for Baudry's medical experiments, so he was reassigned to a June flight.

The other crew members are pilot Donald Williams and mission specialists Margaret Rhea Sedon, David Griggs and Jeffrey Hoffman.

They are to release two communications satellites, including one leased to the U.S. Defence Department.

Sen. Garn, a Utah Republican, chairs a Senate subcommittee that oversees space agency funding. He long had sought a shuttle trip so he could observe how NASA operates, and volunteered to do any task NASA assigned him.

Flight surgeons developed extensive tests to measure his body functions during launch and re-entry and to determine how well he adapts to weightlessness. On launch, for example, he will wear five sensors on his head, four on his stomach and three on his chest.

Chinese Parliament debates controversial inheritance law

PEKING (R) — Controversy has broken out in China's legislature over details of a new law on inheriting property, the New China News Agency said Monday.

The National People's Congress (NPC) is due to pass the law, which legislators say it will guarantee stronger property rights for women, during its current annual session.

The law underpins China's new profit-oriented economic reforms. It will formally allow people to pass on more of what they earn, giving them a greater incentive to compete and work hard.

One clause stipulates that when one of a couple dies, only half of the property they jointly owned will go to the surviving spouse. The other half will go to relatives.

But some NPC members argue that all the property should go to the surviving spouse until he or she dies, the agency said.

The NPC always passes government measures, but members are now encouraged to express their views on details of how the Communist leadership's policies should be carried out.

Delegate Li Deshen argued that while half of the joint property belonged to the surviving spouse, the rest should be used to support the parents and children of the deceased.

The NPC law committee has now agreed that the draft clause should be retained, NCNA said.

China is only now evolving a full legal structure instead of leaving most issues to the arbitrary decisions of Communist officials.

The inheritance law has become an urgent issue because, instead of pooling the fruits of their labour, peasants and small businesses can now seek wealth and even acquire tools and other means of production.

These are people between the ages of 14-24. Several scholars have cited declining birth rates as a factor in declining crime, but Mr. Schlesinger cautioned against over-emphasising the effects of demographic changes.

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Pakistani opposition leader freed from house arrest

ISLAMABAD (R) — Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, one of Pakistan's leading opposition politicians, has been freed from almost two months of house arrest meant to muzzle critics of the government during February's general elections.

Mr. Jatoi, until recently acting head of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), told Reuters by telephone that police guards were taken away from his Karachi house late Sunday night.

"It is too early to say anything," he said when asked about his plans. "I must first contact my colleagues in my party and in the MRD."

Mr. Jatoi and almost all other leaders of the MRD — the opposition Movement for the Restoration of Democracy — were put under house arrest during the week before the elections which the MRD boycotted. The others have already been freed.

Among questions now facing Mr. Jatoi and other MRD leaders is whether they made a tactical mistake by boycotting the polls, since the focus of political activity has moved into the first elected

parliament since martial law President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq seized power in 1977.

Mr. Jatoi was known to be considering running in the elections and was even tipped as a possible prime minister in the new government. That post was given by Gen. Zia to another civilian, Mohammad Khan Junejo.

Mr. Jatoi declined to talk about his relations with the PPP, which he left to reorganise last week to make retired Gen. Tikka Khan secretary-general. Mr. Jatoi, formerly acting party head in Pakistan, was simply named as a member of the central executive committee.

Pakistani newspapers have speculated that Mr. Jatoi would soon fly to London to meet Bhutto, daughter of party founder and former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, to discuss the changes. The politician also declined to comment on an unexplained robbery in his house last month when he had more details on how raiders broke in despite the round-the-clock police guard outside.

"It is a great mystery," he said.

COLUMN

12.3 million live in Indian slums

NEW DELHI (R) — About 12.3 million people live in slums in India's 12 major cities. Works and Housing Minister Abdul Ghafoor said Monday. "The government recognises the present state of housing shortage," he told parliament. Mr. Ghafoor said slum improvement was part of an urban development programme financed by loans from the World Bank and its affiliate, the International Development Association. He added that government plans to improve the lives of the urban poor included provision of clean water, street lighting, community bathrooms and lavatories, the laying of drains and sewerage pipes and the paving of dirt roads.

U.K. church argues over resurrection

LONDON (AP) — The Archbishop of Canterbury reaffirmed the Anglican Church's belief in the resurrection of Jesus in an Easter Sunday sermon as one of his bishops again said there is no proof that Christ rose from the dead. At services around the country, clergymen of the Church of England backed Archbishop Ronald Rundle in rebutting the doubts cast on the resurrection story by Bishop of Durham David Jenkins. Preaching in Canterbury Cathedral, the archbishop said that the gospel stories were based on "first-hand memory and firm tradition. They were events sure enough." But Bishop Jenkins, whose resignation has been demanded by two fellow prelates, declared in his sermon in Durham Cathedral that although his belief in the resurrection is "overwhelming," there is no proof of it. Bishop Jenkins also told television interviewer David Frost that the disciples could have stolen Jesus's body from the tomb after his crucifixion. "I'm certain Jesus came back from the dead, built up by the impact he made on the minds of people," Jenkins said. "It's not the tomb I trust in but the people. Miracles have to be perceived by people — they bear the witness. The stories don't always tie together because they were written down 40 to 50 years after the event."

U.S. crime figures show improvement

WASHINGTON (AP) — Violent crime in the United States showed no lullup last year, even though overall crime fell by 4.5 per cent and household burglaries and larcenies were at record low levels, the U.S. Justice Department says. The Bureau of Justice Statistics, released preliminary figures for 1984 based on the National Crime Survey. The rate of violent crimes such as rape, robbery and assault — 31 per 1,000 people — remained essentially unchanged over the year, the bureau said. The survey measures crimes that go unreported to police, as well as those reported. Among the findings based on the preliminary figures for 1984, said the Bureau of Justice Statistics, there were 35.3 million "victimisations" compared to 37 million the year before. Bureau Director Steven Schlesinger said the drop in the overall crime rate may be attributable to changes in sentencing procedures, increased citizen involvement in crime prevention and the shrinking group of people prone to commit crimes. These are people between the ages of 14-24. Several scholars have cited declining birth rates as a factor in declining crime, but Mr. Schlesinger cautioned against over-emphasising the effects of demographic changes.

Winegrower to report on 'test-tube' grapes

WESTMINSTER, Maryland (AP) — A winegrower who will address a University of Paris conference this month on "test-tube" grapes says the key to his success at cloning a grapevine from a single cell appears to be an herbicide. G. Hamilton Mowbray, of Monstray Winerecials Ltd., said he first began experimenting with the idea in 1975 after a student in his University of Maryland class asked if tissue cultures had been done on grapes. Mowbray and then-student William Krul began working together on the project and by 1977 were planting the first cloned vines. Although it usually takes three or four years for a vine to produce grapes, the cloned vines produced a crop in the second year, Mowbray said, adding his speech at the April 24 conference would be a status report on the cloned plants.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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BREAK THE RULES

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 10 2
♥ A 8 5
♦ 4
♣ J 10 8 7 4

WEST
♠ Q 6 5 3
♥ Q 4
♦ K J 7 6 3
♣ 3 2

EAST
♠ J 7 4
♥ J 10 9 3
♦ A 10 9 2
♣ 6 5

SOUTH
♠ A 9 8
♥ 7 6 2
♦ Q 8 5
♣ A K Q 9

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♣.

None of the rules for the play of the hand are inviolate. All are subject to expediency. East learned this lesson the hard way on this deal from a team match.

At both tables the final contract was three no trump. Note that South probed for a major-suit contract rather than just settle for the no trump game after North had shown a distributional hand. Three no trump might not be the world's best contract, but no other game

was much better — two rounds of diamonds would give declarer no chance at four hearts, and five clubs depends largely on a 3-3 heart break.

At both tables the opening lead was West's fourth-best diamond. Both Easts won the ace, but here their paths diverged. The standard way to show that you started with four cards in the suit led by partner is to return your lowest card in the suit, so one East dutifully returned the two of diamonds.

Declarer's only legitimate hope is to rise with the queen and hope that East held the king, as well as the ace. However, declarer made the technically inferior play of the eight and struck gold. West won the jack and played the king to fall in the suit, so one East dutifully returned the two of diamonds.

At the other table East decided that it really made very little difference whether West thought he had three or four diamonds. He realized that his 10-9 in the suit represented a possible block, so at trick two he returned the 10 of diamonds. Now the defenders were guaranteed five tricks in the suit regardless of what declarer opted to do at trick two.

Mondale outlines 1984 campaign mistakes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Walter Mondale, looking back on his landslide defeat to Ronald Reagan in the 1984 presidential election, said Sunday he made a basic error in presenting his case to Americans by failing to emphasise the positive side of his message.

"They heard opportunity from the (Republican) side, they didn't hear it from me," the former Democratic presidential nominee said in an interview on the American television network NBC's "Meet the Press."

It was Mr. Mondale's first appearance in an national forum since the November election in which Mr. Reagan carried 49 states for one of the most lopsided re-election victories in American history. Mr. Mondale carried only his home state of Minnesota and the District of Columbia.

Mr. Mondale said he continues to believe "I was essentially correct on the fundamental issues," but, he added that he was no match for Mr. Reagan when it came to communicating with the American people.

"The fact of the matter is, President Reagan's ability to communicate — even things that I

think are demonstrably not accurate — verges on genius," said Mr. Mondale. "I don't think anybody accused me of the same capability."

In the future, he said the Democrats "must find a candidate who, in addition to being right on the issues and station them correctly, can master this modern challenge of communication in this huge country of ours."

Mr. Mondale also criticised Mr. Reagan for agreeing with Senate Republicans to a budget compromise that would cut 2 per cent from the cost of living increase to programme recipients.

Mr. Mondale said Mr. Reagan "backed off his commitment" made during the campaign not to tamper with social security.

Asked about the Republican contention that Mr. Reagan's commitment did not apply to the cost of living increases, Mr. Mondale replied, "that won't wash and the record won't sustain that at all."

Mr. Mondale disagreed with analysts who contend he was particularly hurt by a perception he was too closely tied to special inter-

Self in 1984